

Soldiers held for selling arms to Arabs for drug money

BILL HUTMAN and ALON PINKAS

TWO soldiers who allegedly sold weapons and ammunition to a Palestinian from the Nablus area in order to buy drugs have been detained by police.

They are suspected of selling an IDF-issue Uzi, weapons parts, grenades, and ammunition to the Palestinian, who was also arrested. More arrests of soldiers and Palestinians who purchased weapons from them are possible, a police spokesman said last night.

The soldiers, who are both from the Tel Aviv area and serve in the central region, were detained Thursday in Petah Tikva while they were on their way to sell two more grenades to the Palestinian, the spokesman said.

They apparently needed money to pay for their drug habits, according to police.

The soldiers and Palestinian had agreed to make the exchange in Petah Tikva. The Palestinian, however, was arrested earlier in the week and had tipped off police about the deal.

The stolen weapons and ammunition were recovered in his home in a village near Nablus. In the apartment police found two gas grenades, an Uzi submachine gun, and over 1,000mm rounds.

The Military Police is working together with investigators from the Judea and Samaria Police District on the case.

The IDF Spokesman would not comment on the arrest.



Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein visits Friday with first graders at a school serving Druse from the villages of Yanuh and Jatt in the Galilee. (Ilan Osendryver/Israel Sun)

No talks if Arafat allows terror - Peres

Criticism could raise tensions at PLO Executive meeting

JON IMMANUEL

IF PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat proves too weak to impose his authority on those who attack Israelis, Israel will not negotiate with him, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the German weekly *Der Spiegel*.

"If he is too weak to do that or lacks the will, why should we negotiate with him at all?" Peres says in the upcoming edition of the magazine, quoted by Reuters.

"Yasser Arafat must show more willpower, more character in his fight against terror in his area," Peres says.

The sharp criticism will likely increase tensions as Arafat prepares to convene the PLO Executive in Tunis this week. The meeting is to assess developments during the two weeks since the committee launched an international and regional campaign to pressure Israel to accelerate negotiations.

The last executive committee meeting in Cairo on February 22 ended with a call for major Western and Arab countries to blame Israel for the meager progress towards greater self-rule since the Cairo agreement was signed on May 4. It also said a meeting would be held in Tunis this week, after Ramadan, to reassess developments.

The Tunis meeting is expected to be tough, as it will be attended by several Arafat critics who boycotted the Cairo meeting. These include Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), the chief Palestinian negotiator in Oslo, who opposes the Cairo agreement.

Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's Political Department head, who opposed the Oslo accords, is also expected to attend the meeting at PLO headquarters.

The current problems intensified with the closure that followed the Beit Lid massacre and effectively suspended talks on IDF redeployment. Arafat said the closure was collective punishment which would encourage more attacks. Prime Minister Rabin spoke of a complete separation, substituting 70,000 foreign workers for Palestinians.

Peres acknowledged to *Der Spiegel* that PLO authorities had made hundreds of arrests, but added: "He [Arafat] hasn't placed a single terrorist before a court yet. He hasn't tried to disarm these groups."

Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani said last week that special state security courts would begin trying security suspects this week. However, the first group of 10-20 to be tried are all charged as collaborators with Israel. Others, who have participated in attacks on Israelis, will be charged later, Kanafani said.

In the interview, Peres agreed that economic problems were a big cause of Arafat's troubles. "That is why we want to talk to our neighbors primarily about the development of the economy, science, and culture," he said.

Jaweed Ghusseini, an international contractor and PLO executive member, told *The Jerusalem Post* in Cairo that, when the Oslo agreement was signed in September 1993, he had expected that "This would be a marriage, not a divorce. It is a big mistake to see the agreement as a way to get rid of the Palestinians."

Ghuseini, who heads the Palestinian National Fund, the PLO's investment arm, disagreed with Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Ahmed Oreia over this issue. Oreia supported a suggestion by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid to compensate the Palestinian Authority with NIS 1 billion a year for closing Israel to Palestinian workers.

Israel Radio quoted Sarid yesterday as saying "a big step" such as this is necessary to break the impasse in the talks.

Ghuseini - whose companies build apartments, factories, sewage and water desalination plants throughout the Gulf emirates - said, "Handouts never succeeded anywhere. Gaza is just too small to have an independent economy."

Meanwhile, Rabin decided Thursday night to ease the closure a little more, and authorized 3,000 more permits to be issued beginning today to married industrial and agricultural workers aged 30 and over. This will bring the number of permits to 18,000, compared with 30,000 before the Beit Lid massacre.

Palestinian economists consider 45,000 permits the minimum required. Before the Gulf War, some 70,000 worked in Israel with permits, and an estimated 50,000 worked illegally.

In addition, 750 students are to be permitted to leave Gaza to study in colleges in the territories, while 500 tourism workers are to be allowed to enter Jerusalem.

Treasury head calls for interest-rate cut

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Ministry Director General David Brodet Friday called on the Bank of Israel to cut interest rates between 1% and 1.5% this week.

Brodet rejected Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's conditions for cutting interest rates significantly, which would require the government to slash spending and taxes by NIS 2 billion.

"I think it's possible to lower interest rates next week - and I emphasize next week since it would be essential for stabilizing the capital market. If the rate reduction is around 1%-1.5%, I will be very happy," Brodet said in an interview with *Israel Radio*.

He argued that another budget cut is not necessary for reducing rates, since the central bank did not even move rates by a tenth of a percent in response to the NIS 750 million

mid-January budget cut.

The Bank of Israel last night refused to respond to Brodet's statements. However, a senior official asked why the central bank should be expected to lower interest rates every time the budget is cut. "Does this mean, every time budget spending goes up to rescue the pension funds, the kibbutzim, and the defense industries, we are going to raise interest rates?" said the official.

Although Brodet did not reject spending cuts out of hand, he said that interfering repeatedly with the government's spending program would drive the budget system wild, not to mention the opposition it would engender among cabinet members.

Brodet emphasized that the Treasury's pol-

icy of gradually reducing the budget deficit is more important than a single budget cut of NIS 1b., since that would not change the basic economic trends.

A central bank official rejected the idea of lowering rates already this week saying, "Since our last reduction was not satisfying, we're going to come up every week with something new."

The official reiterated that Frenkel told the Knesset Finance Committee his assessment that interest rates would come down was based on data showing inflation retreating. Frenkel only suggested that for rates to drop more rapidly, the government could help by slashing expenditures NIS 2b.

An interest rate cut "of this magnitude will not undermine the fight against inflation," said Brodet.

It's official: Indyk takes up post this week

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

MARTIN Indyk was officially confirmed Friday to be the next US ambassador to Israel.

The full Senate approved Indyk by unanimous consent, meaning that no formal vote was taken. A Foreign Relations subcommittee had voted on the nomination on Tuesday and sent it to the floor.

A senior administration official said he expects Indyk to assume the post immediately, in time to receive Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will visit the region beginning Wednesday.

Indyk will then return to the US for the formal swearing-in ceremony and soon thereafter take up residence in Tel Aviv with his wife and two young children.

Indyk fills a seven-month void caused by the retirement of the previous ambassador, Edward Djerejian.

Dollar hits all-time low despite intervention

WASHINGTON (AP) - The US dollar sank in value against most other major currencies Friday, hitting a record low against the Japanese yen despite a massive effort by central banks around the world to support it.

The failure of the coordinated government dollar-buying intervention, which traders estimated at between \$2 billion and \$3b., raised concerns about US financial markets and interest rates and left economists wondering just how far the US currency might plunge.

The dollar's new all-time lows are being generated by the US ties to Mexico and the panic flight right now of funds away from weak-currency countries - Mexi-

co, Canada, and now the United States," said Allen Sinai, chief economist at Lehman Brothers in New York.

While a weaker dollar drives up inflation by making imports more expensive, analysts said the bigger threat to the US economy is that currency turmoil could spill over into stock and bond markets if foreign investors start dumping their dollar-denominated assets.

The Clinton administration tried to calm market anxieties with a statement early Friday announcing it had authorized the Fed to intervene with other central banks to buy dollars, the first such coordinated intervention since June.

Full report, Page 10

Palestinian Police kills Gaza man

Jerusalem Post Staff

PALESTINIAN policemen shot and killed a Palestinian south of the Netzarim junction last night.

The Palestinian Police claimed that the man was shot by IDF troops. They identified him as Osama Borno, 37, headmaster of a Gaza school.

According to *Israel Radio*, the police saw suspicious figures coming towards the junction and opened fire.

One person was wounded in the head, but managed to get to an IDF outpost. The soldiers called for a helicopter, but the man died on the way to hospital.

Kahalani's Golan lobby efforts in US sponsored by right - PM

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin lashed out at Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani last night for planning to lobby in the US against withdrawal from the Golan.

Rabin accused Kahalani of "going to the US at the behest of right-wing organizations, who are probably footing his bill for the trip."

Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zivli echoed the prime minister, contending that "What Kahalani is doing is very serious and is not something which Labor can gloss over and ignore. The party will have to consider what

to do about such behavior."

Speaking to a gathering of supporters at Kibbutz Shefayim, Rabin argued that "Kahalani does not speak for the Labor Party or represent this government. I am sure he will not get to meet any of the top administration figures in Washington whom he was planning to influence against withdrawal from the Golan. Nobody will see him or talk to him."

The Kahalani trip, according to Rabin, "is part of a growing

tendency on part of opposition groups of all sorts to lobby abroad. This is a norm which never existed in the past."

Rabin added that he "does know what the Labor Party should or would do about members like Kahalani. I am not in the business of imposing discipline, but I do regret that Kahalani is serving right wing elements in his activity and that they in all likelihood are paying for his travels."

Kahalani denied that right-wing groups sent him and said he had no intentions of leaving Labor.

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Tuesday, March 7, at 4:30 p.m.

Rebecca Crowne Auditorium, Jerusalem Theater Program

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Musical Rendition:	"Golden Strings Quartet" new immigrants
Welcome Address:	Dr. Steven Donshtik, Director of the Israel Office of the Jewish Federation of New York
Greetings:	Yehi Tashen, Minister of Immigrant Absorption Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem Uri Gordon, Head, Immigrant Absorption Dept., the Jewish Agency
Entertainment:	Singer Shuli Natan Actor Haim Baral
Master of Ceremonies:	Miriam Meyuhos, Coordinator Campaign Events

Entrance free - The public is invited

Jordan meeting on refugees will only check the facts - Peres

THE planned meeting next week in Jordan to discuss the return of Palestinians who left the territories after 1967 will check the facts and the overall situation, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday.

Speaking during an Id al-Fitr holiday visit to the home of the head of the Islamic Movement in Israel, Nimr Darwish, in Kafr Kassem, Peres said the meeting - also to be attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt and Jordan, and a Palestinian representative - would look into the matter.

The opposition has called in all its members for a vote on a bill by Likud faction chairman Uzi Landau which would forbid the government from returning Palestinian refugees from the War of Independence and the Six Day War. The bill is being raised at this time to undermine the meeting on the refugees.

Landau says that granting the Palestinians the right of return will turn the country into a Hamas base and a breeding ground for terrorism.

Meanwhile, Communications

Minister Shulamit Aloni said no Israeli government could agree to allow Arabs who fled the country in 1948 the right to return to their homes and land inside Israel.

Speaking on Army Radio over the weekend, Aloni said that not even a government in which she had a senior position would be able to make such a decision.

"The government of Israel wants this to be an Israeli state, and not a bi-national one. We can't correct one injustice by committing another, and by creating havoc and changing the

character of the State of Israel," she said. Aloni said she believes Israel must call on the world to help settle Palestinian refugees from 1948 in other places, saying the Palestinians would have to accept such an arrangement.

As for the refugees from 1967, Aloni said they would eventually return and settle in the Palestinian entity or state, and not inside Israel. She rejected right-wing opposition to the idea, saying this was set in the Camp David accords by former prime minister Menachem Begin. (Tum)

'IDF reinforces security zone before Christopher trip'

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) - The IDF remodeled its troops yesterday in south Lebanon, according to Lebanese sources.

The move reportedly was taken in anticipation of guerrilla attacks ahead of this week's Middle East shuttle by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Security sources in this southern town said some 45 Israeli troops took over from allied Lebanese militiamen three hilltop outposts at Ein Kineh, Zommaraya, and Nkad Kawkaba in the eastern sector of the security zone.

The IDF denied replacing any SLA outposts.

The sources said the posts were

important for monitoring the movement of Iranian-backed gunmen between Syrian and IDF lines.

All three positions had been held by the South Lebanese Army for nearly a decade.

The sources said the 50-man SLA contingent withdrew to the nearby barracks of Ein Kamha.

Meanwhile, a fisherman was killed and two others were wounded in an explosion on the shore north of Tyre under Israeli blockade, security sources said.

The Hizbullah claimed the casualties were the result of a rocket attack by an Israeli Navy ship off the fishing harbor of Adloun, about 15 kilometers up the coast.

But the Voice of Lebanon reported the explosion occurred when an unexploded shell blew up as fishermen handled it.

The Lebanese army, which has checkpoints in the area, was investigating the cause of the explosion, said the sources.

Earlier Friday, IAF warplanes staged mock air raids across south Lebanon.

Lebanese army anti-aircraft opened up on fighter jets over the market town of Nabatiya, just north of the security zone, the security sources said. No hits were reported.

Israeli jets also made reconnaissance flights over the port of Tyre, said the sources.

Olmert to address separation committee on capital

BILL HUTMAN
and news agencies

CONCERNED that police plan to "redesign" Jerusalem, Mayor Ehud Olmert is to voice his views on security in the capital today before Police Minister Moshe Shahal's separation committee.

Olmert is angry about police plans to take steps in the capital that, in the name of improved security, would divide the eastern and western parts of the city.

Among the plans reportedly being considered by police are increased checkpoints between Jewish and Arab sectors of the city.

Police sources said Olmert requested and received from Shahal special permission to appear before the committee. Except for Shahal, no politicians are involved in the committee's work.

The committee, set up after the Beit Lid bombing, will likely not present its final proposal for keeping Palestinians from illegally entering Israel until next week. It was originally scheduled to present its proposals to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin today.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry said on Friday that Palestinians sabotage the \$30 million electronic security fence around the Gaza Strip every night.

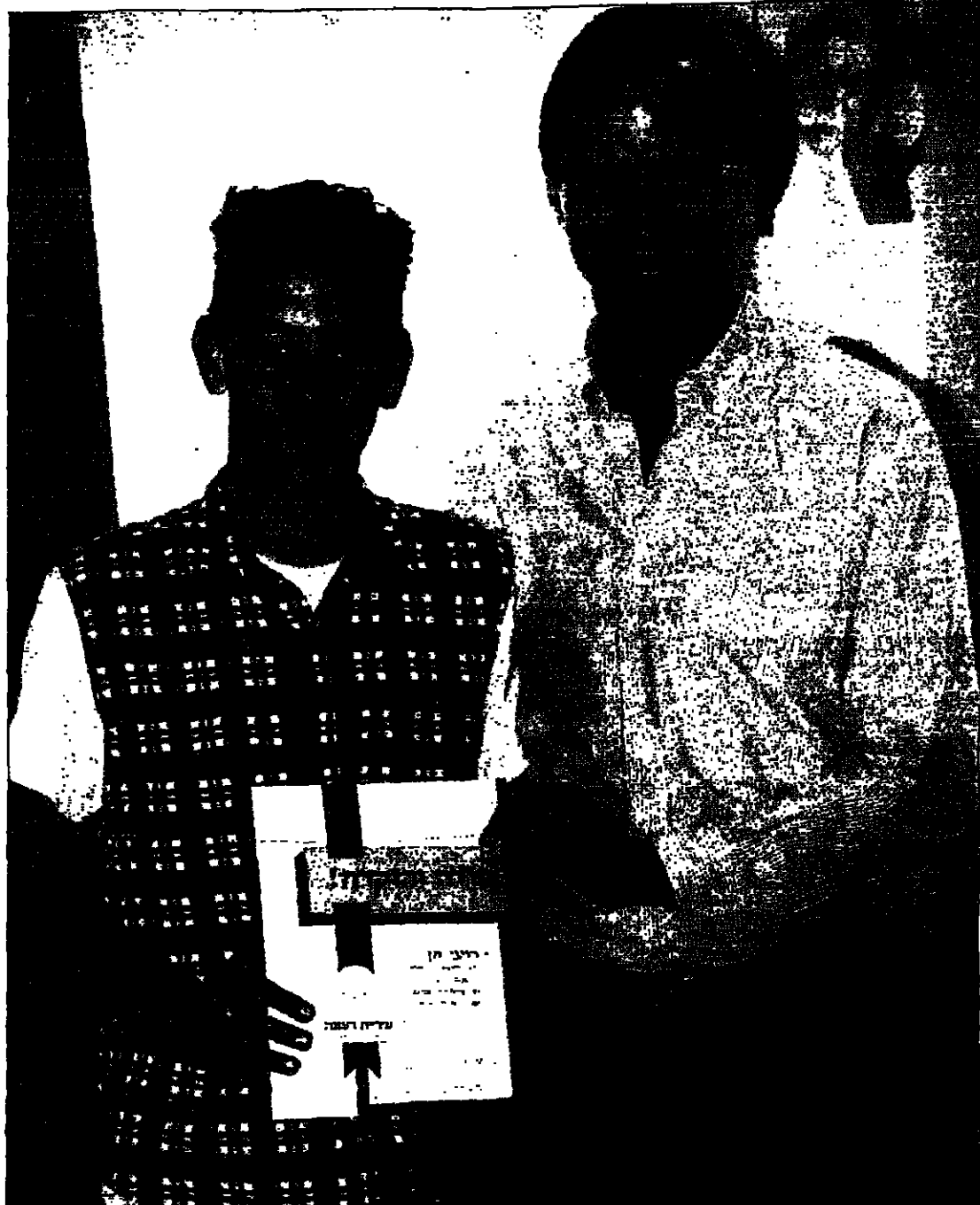
"One of the most difficult problems facing the [ministry's] construction branch today is the daily sabotage of the Gaza Strip security fence," said *Blatnik* 11, the internal magazine for Defense Ministry workers.

It reported the 54-kilometer-long fence, completed last year, includes a steel barrier to stop vehicles and touch-sensitive chain-link and barbed wire fencing to stop people.

The article, a copy of which was released by the ministry, said sabotage began even before construction was complete. Gazans cut the barbed wire and hauled sections of the steel barrier back into the Strip as scrap metal.

"Even today, the fence is being sabotaged every night, although on a smaller scale - thanks to the electronic sensors," the magazine said. "Repairs are carried out continuously, immediately after the sabotage is discovered."

The magazine said the fence, stretching from Erez checkpoint in northern Gaza to the Egyptian border in the south, cost about NIS 100 million to build.



Ro'i Chen, 17, of Ra'anana receives a citation from Mayor Ze'ev Bielsky for saving a local woman from suicide last week. Chen noticed the woman, 60, sitting in her car with the motor running, with a hose running from the exhaust pipe into the car. (Yisrael Hadar)

Rabin complains to Clinton over House aid cut to Amman

News agencies

WASHINGTON - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin complained to President Bill Clinton on Thursday of a plan in the House of Representatives that would cut funding for Jordan's debt forgiveness, the White House said.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said that in a phone conversation with Clinton, Rabin was "upset and somewhat alarmed" by a House subcommittee's vote to cut US debt forgiveness of Jordan from \$275 million during this budget year down to \$50 million.

The Clinton administration's decision to forgive Jordan's debt helped lead King Hussein to agree to a peace treaty with Israel last year.

Rabin told Clinton that it would be harmful to the United States to renege on its commitments, McCurry said.

Clinton replied he would do everything he could to work with moderates in the Senate to block the

action if it passes the House.

"The president told the prime minister in all candor that we face a very tough audience now in Capitol Hill," McCurry said. He accused congressional Republicans of escalating the risks of war in the Middle East by slashing aid to Jordan.

"This is an example of the tilt towards isolationism that you now see in the Republican-dominated Congress," McCurry said, expanding on a theme raised by Clinton in a speech Wednesday night.

He said those who oppose the funding should ask themselves how much more expensive it would be to "prepare for war" in the Middle East than nurture bonds of peace developing between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Clinton engaged in a flurry of Middle East contacts Thursday. Besides telephoning Rabin, he met at

the White House with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Faisal, and also called Hussein.

McCurry said Rabin stressed that it is in Israel's strategic interest "to see the benefits of peace accrue to the citizens of Jordan."

Though it's just a fraction of the budget, foreign aid has emerged as a prime target in the race between Republicans and Democrats to cut federal spending and reduce the deficit. The administration fears that budget cutters will undermine US commitments abroad.

"Those who oppose funding debt forgiveness for Jordan ought to ask themselves the question: How much more expensive would conflict in the Middle East be?" McCurry said. He said the House committee's vote amounted to "sort of yanking out one of the pillars of American leadership in the world by taking away our ability to support and nurture the peace process that is changing so dramatically the Middle East."

Senate likely to be more forthcoming

COMMENT
HILLEL KUTTLER

DESPITE the House's decision last week to approve just \$50 million in Jordanian debt relief, the Senate is likely to be much more forthcoming, Capitol Hill sources said Friday.

No date has been set for Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee deliberations on the matter.

The panel has just now finished work on a decision bill meant to cut supplemental funds budgeted for the Pentagon.

But Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), subcommittee chairman, is assessing whether colleagues will join him in supporting the full \$275 million in debt relief the administration has requested for Jordan.

Appropriations Committee chairman Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon) is said to be in McConnell's corner.

The \$275 million would fully retire the \$700 million Amman owes the US. A first installment of debt forgiveness was granted last summer following King Hussein's decision to move toward a peace treaty with Israel.

"The Israeli government is very anxious to see this resolved,

as are the Jordanians ... and so we are trying to figure out now where the support lies," a Senate aide familiar with the issue said.

McConnell "is strongly committed to the full 275 [million dollars]. He thinks the king's put a lot on the line and this is a situation that warrants decisive action on our part," she added.

Israeli ambassador Itamar Rabinovich met Friday with McConnell, and Senators Phil Gramm and Richard Lugar, to urge support for the debt relief.

The pro-Israel AIPAC lobby is also strongly supportive of the entire \$275 million figure, and is making that point in meetings on Capitol Hill, another aide stated.

The Senate is seen to have more maneuverability on aid questions than the House, where Republicans are hemmed in by their "Contract with America" that mandates cuts, cuts, and more cuts.

But even in the Senate, the

question is where the funds would come from. One possibility being weighed is for them to be attached to the 1995 defense supplemental budget, which was submitted with President Bill Clinton's 1996 budget last month.

Another is for returning to the administration's original plan to retire the debt in three years rather than in two.

Whatever figure the Senate subcommittee arrives at, the panel must then caucus with its House counterpart to find a middle ground.

Those working the issue say Washington's new air of fiscal prudence will ultimately determine how forthcoming lawmakers can be even on worthy causes like assisting Jordan.

"There's so much pressure on both sides [Republicans and Democrats] to demonstrate budget-cutting zeal that trying to slip in a few hundred million for our favorite friend in the Middle East won't be easy," a Senate aide said. "As compelling as the Middle East peace process is, it's not as compelling as [domestic] deficit relief is now."

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Border Police head appointed

Police Cmdr. Yisrael Sadan, 48, was chosen as the new Border Police commander at a weekend meeting between Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz.

Sadan will be replacing Cmdr. Yitzhak Aharonovitz, who is to take over the Israel Police liaison office in the US. The police spokesman described the changes as part of routine position shifts. Sadan is a 20-year police veteran and has a master's degree in political science and international relations.

Hussein undergoes minor throat surgery

King Hussein underwent throat surgery in Amman on Friday for the removal of a cyst that had caused chronic nasal and ear infections and deprived the monarch of his favorite hobby - flying. An official announcement said Hussein, 59, is "in excellent health condition" and recuperating well at the Hussein Medical Center. (AP)

Soldier wounds Palestinian near Jericho

A soldier shot and wounded a Palestinian on Friday at a roadblock near the Palestinian Jericho enclave, the IDF Spokesman announced. The spokesman said the soldier opened fire when the Palestinian, who was not identified, tried to seize his weapon.

Israel Radio reported last night that the Palestinian tried to attack the soldier guarding him at the hospital, but was subdued.

We mourn the passing of our beloved

ROCHEL (Ruby) PERMUT

of Ginot Shomron (Winnipeg, Canada)

Chaim Permut, Israel

Judi, Danny, Aryeh and Zvi Gottlieb, Israel

Clara Cham, Winnipeg, Canada

Shiva until Thursday morning, March 9, 1995
in Kibbutz Sha'alvim, at family Gottlieb

RUTH HIRSCH (Née Hirschfeld) ז"ל

Siegburg - Manchester - Tel Aviv

After a long illness bravely borne.

The funeral takes place today, Sunday, March 5, 1995
(II Adar 3, 5755), leaving from Ohel Ya'acov Funeral

Home at 2 p.m. for the New Yarkon Cemetery at 2:45.

Shiva at her home.

Husband: Aron Hirsch
Daughter: Yvonne Singer
and family

With great sorrow, we announce the death of our dear
father and grandfather

KALMAN DAVID HARTUV

(son of Shmuel ז"ל)

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, March 5, 1995 (II Adar 3, 5755),
at 2:30 p.m. at the Holon Cemetery.

Meeting at the new gate.

Mourning by:
Sons, grandsons, granddaughters,
great-grandson, and all the family.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The English Department regrets to
announce the cancellation of the visit of
The Irish Poet,
Eavan Boland

and of the poetry reading and lectures,
"A Woman Poet in Ireland"

which were scheduled for
March 8 and 9, 1995

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Buthelezi blasts Mandela

ULUNDI (Reuters) — South Africa's main black opposition leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday launched his strongest attack yet on President Nelson Mandela, accusing him of arrogance and aggression.

He compared the actions of Mandela and his African National Congress (ANC) with white apartheid leaders before last year's historic all-race elections ended white minority rule.

Buthelezi spoke in Zulu at the opening of a key two-day meeting of his Inkatha Freedom Party to chart its future in the ANC-dominated national unity government.

Buthelezi, home affairs minister in Mandela's government, pulled his party out of parliament on February 21, accusing the president of reneging on an agreement on international mediation to settle constitutional differences.

"President Mandela does not recognize that his party and his government have dishonored his agreement... Instead he has opted to be arrogant and aggressive, choosing to insult us," Buthelezi told 3,000 delegates.

Police said two Inkatha supporters were killed and 17 wounded in two separate attacks by gunmen east of Johannesburg and in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal on Friday night.

The driver of a mini-bus taxi and a woman passenger were killed and 13 passengers hurt in KwaZulu-Natal when gunmen in a passing car opened fire on the vehicle on its way to Ulundi.

Four men were wounded when gunmen with AK-47 assault rifles

opened fire on a bus in the East Rand carrying 60 Inkatha supporters to the congress. Police feared further violence today when Inkatha members return home.

Economic and political analysts have voiced concern that the Inkatha walkout from parliament also threatens the country's fragile unity and could damage investor confidence at a time the government is wooing foreign funds.

Delegates applauded Buthelezi as he delivered a 21-page speech outlining the difficulties he said his party was having in a parliament dominated by the ANC.

"What I see is defined by the same features which characterized the exercise of power under the old regime."

"President Mandela is threatening us today as much as (former president) P.W. Botha used to, with the full might of the South African state which he wants to use to oppress our protest, silence our opposition and eliminate our dissent," Buthelezi said.

The ANC won power last year in the first all-race elections, but Inkatha and white former president F.W. de Klerk's National Party are included in the coalition government under a five-year power-sharing agreement.

Inkatha delegates at the weekend meeting are faced with three main options: return to the situation as it was before the parliamentary walkout, Inkatha's three cabinet members quit but Inkatha members remain in parliament as a vocal opposition, or Inkatha pulls out of parliament.



The wife of slain TV journalist Vladislav Listyev, Albina, is supported by relatives during her husband's funeral in Moscow's Vagankov Cemetery yesterday. (AP)

Russia mourns slain TV star

NATASHA BROWN
MOSCOW

THOUSANDS of Russians gathered outside a Moscow cemetery yesterday to pay a last tribute to television star Vladislav Listyev, killed in a mafia-style "hit" that shocked the nation.

Political leaders joined relatives and close friends by the graveside as a huge crowd stood patiently in the mud and melted snow behind a police cordon, their feelings a mixture of grief and outrage.

"At this moment of grief, it is difficult to speak about what we have to do," First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said. He described the murder as "a barbaric act carried out by evil forces seeking to frighten the people."

A few hundred people were allowed into the Vagankovskoye cemetery, where many prominent cultural figures are buried.

Some choked back tears as speakers paid homage to the TV star, whose coffin was lowered into a grave close to the final resting place of revered poet and singer Vladimir Vysotsky.

Presidential administration chief Sergei Filatov stepped forward to throw a handful of earth onto the coffin. He was followed by Yegor Gaidar, architect of Russian economic reforms and leader of the Russia's Choice parliamentary faction.

"It's a terrible, terrible thing. Everyone knew him. He was in everyone's homes," said

an old woman. "He was so young."

Earlier yesterday, relatives and close friends had packed the small Voskreseniya (Resurrection) church in central Moscow as the body of the 38-year-old anchorman, talk-show host and production executive was carried in.

Hundreds also gathered at the entrance to his apartment, the scene of the killing. Wreaths and bunches of carnations lay around a portrait of the bespectacled moustached Listyev, a face familiar to people throughout the former Soviet Union.

Listyev's death, by far the highest-profile assassination in violence-prone Russia since Boris Yeltsin became president in 1991, has unleashed a wave of anger at the authorities' inability to defeat organized crime.

Thousands of Russians, young and old, had queued late into Friday night to file past the open coffin in which Listyev lay in state.

Many wept, some held candles, crossed themselves or laid flowers in a huge mound on the stage where the coffin stood.

It was the biggest public outpouring of grief seen in Russia since the 1989 funeral of Andrei Sakharov, the human rights campaigner and physicist, which drew a crowd of

some 80,000.

"Either the country will conquer terror or terror will conquer the country," leading reformer and possible presidential candidate Grigory Yavlinsky told Interfax news agency.

Vladislav, or Vlad, Listyev unusually combined the charisma of a top television journalist with the hard-nosed flair of a TV production executive.

He was a success in virtually every endeavor — be it setting up a non-conformist current affairs program, running a quiz show or launching new TV companies. Each project brought the country something new.

Listyev unashamedly modeled his latest chat show, "Prime Time", on American lines, even appearing jacketless and wearing braces like CNN's Larry King.

But his biggest challenge — and the one that may have cost him his life — was just around the corner.

On April 1, he was to have launched Public Russian Television, the partially privatized successor to the biggest ex-Soviet Channel 1 Ostankino.

Politicians and journalists said that, with high financial and political interests at stake, the shake-up he envisaged might have been the factor that cost him his life.

President Boris Yeltsin has promised a crackdown on mobsters and pledged to sack the Moscow police chief and prosecutor. (Reuters)

Key Simpson witness denies bribe

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — A key defense witness denied "100 percent" she had told a friend she was being paid by O.J. Simpson's lawyers to give the football legend an alibi for the night his ex-wife and her friend were murdered.

Rosa Lopez, a live-in housekeeper for Simpson's neighbors at the time of the murders, claims she saw his white Ford Bronco parked outside his mansion at about the time the prosecution says he was murdering his ex-wife and her friend.

As Lopez's three-day ordeal on the witness stand came to an end on Friday afternoon, Judge Lance Ito issued an order fining defense attorneys Johnnie Cochran and Carl Douglas \$950 each for withholding from the prosecution an audiotape of an interview between Lopez and defense investigator William Pavelic.

On the tape, which was recorded on July 29 but not given to the prosecution until Tuesday, Lopez talked about seeing the Bronco on the night of the murders.

In releasing Lopez, Ito thanked her and said, "Good luck, Miss Lopez."

"Thank you sir, you're very kind. I appreciate this," an obviously relieved Lopez replied.

She had originally planned to return to her native El Salvador on last Friday, but was ordered to remain in Los Angeles by Ito in order that her testimony could be preserved on videotape for possible showing to the jury during the defense's presentation.

Lopez, who has lived in the United States for 27 years, earlier told the judge she intended to remain in El Salvador and would not come back to Los Angeles to testify before the jury.

Under intense questioning by Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden on Friday, Lopez said her friend Sylvia Guerra, who is also a housekeeper, was lying "100 percent" when she told a detective about an alleged conversation involving being paid to testify.

"Sylvia stated that you told her that the lawyers were going to give you \$5,000 and that she could also get \$5,000 if she testified for Mr. Simpson," Darden said.

"I never said that, sir," Lopez replied.

"Sylvia is lying?" Darden asked. "100 percent," said Lopez, who added that she was telling the truth "100 percent."

Chechen leader stays defiant

SAMASHKI, Russia (Reuters) — Rebel Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has warned Russia it faces a long war which could move outside his region "like a fire spreads from roof to roof."

In Chechnya, Russian artillery shelled the rebel stronghold of Bamut, west of the Chechen capital Grozny, after a night of machine-gun duels, local residents said.

"This will be a long war," Dudayev, told Britain's Sky News television in an interview filmed earlier this week and made available to Reuters yesterday.

"It will spread to other territories, not just to the Caucasus, but even further. Wars are like a fire which spreads from roof to roof."

Dudayev, who abandoned his headquarters in Grozny last month after Russian troops seized most of the city, has made similar statements before about the war spreading outside Chechnya.

Russian authorities have responded by taking tough security

measures to guard against any guerrilla-style attacks by Chechen rebels. So far, such assaults have failed to materialize. The Kremlin has issued an arrest warrant for Dudayev.

Residents of Bamut, 50 km west of Grozny, said Russians had hit the fringes of the village with Grad multiple missile launchers after a night of machine-gun duels.

"The shelling has become routine," said Fryuzza, a Bamut housewife who came to Samashki to visit relatives. "They do not hit the village as such, they aim at the positions of fighters outside it."

Despite heavy losses on both sides, the Russians have yet to take large parts of Chechnya.

Bamut, Samashki, Achkhoy-Martani and Assinovskaya are key rebel strongholds in the west. In the east, the towns of Argun, Gudermes and Shali have become important resistance points after the fall of Grozny last month.

REM drummer has brain hemorrhage

LAUSANNE (AP) — Rock drummer Bill Berry from the rock band REM is recovering well from brain surgery to stem a cerebral hemorrhage, the band's lawyer said yesterday.

The 36-year-old co-founder of the acclaimed group collapsed during a concert at Lausanne and underwent emergency surgery Friday to repair two aneurysms on the surface of the brain, one of which had ruptured.

The operation at the University Hospital Center of Vaud in Lausanne was entirely successful, surgeons said. "Bill is recuperating well after what was a serious operation," Downs said.

The band's 1995 world tour, promoting its new album, *Monster*, has been billed in music circles as one of the year's most anticipated rock music events.

The rest of the tour has now been put on hold pending Berry's full recovery, said Downs. The band is scheduled to appear in Israel on August 14.

Salinas cleared by gov't, postpones hunger strike

MONTERREY (Reuters) — A distraught former president Carlos Salinas de Gortari postponed his hunger strike yesterday as the government cleared him of any wrongdoing in the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio.

Salinas was seen here boarding an airplane returning to Mexico City after his bizarre odyssey to a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of this northern city.

The former president launched

a hunger strike late on Thursday to force the government to clear his name in the Colosio case and to lay the blame for Mexico's growing economic crisis on itself, not him.

The attorney general's office issued a statement afternoon saying there was no evidence showing that Salinas had done anything to impede the investigation into Colosio's murder as had been alleged in news reports.

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EGGED MAKES IT MORE CONVENIENT

Many changes are being introduced on Egged routes and timetables from today, March 5.

The main ones are given below.

Passengers are requested to check with Egged information.

With the authorization of the Transportation Supervisors

INTERURBAN LINES

LINE 245, 450, 453 RAMLA (from the quarters) - TEL AVIV CHANGE OF ROUTE

New Route: Starting point moved to Rehov Weizmann opposite No. 23, turning right at Rehov Hahistadrut and continuing without change.

New stops: 1. Weizmann opp. No. 23; 2. 4 Hahistadrut

LINE 317 REHOVOT - Bnei Brak

The 07:45 trip from Kiryat Malachi is canceled.

Bus will leave from Rehovot at 08:30.

LINE 368 ASHDOD - BEERSHEBA

05:45 trip added from Ashdod, Sun.-Thur.

LINE 402 JERUSALEM - TEL AVIV

07:00 trip from Jerusalem is canceled.

LINE 428, 945, 947

New boarding and alighting stop added at Ganim Junct., in both directions.

LINE 335 RISHON LEZION - JERUSALEM

New stop added at Beit Dagan Vulcan Institute.

Boarding for Jerusalem and alighting in direction of Rishon Lezion.

LINE 435 JERUSALEM - REHOVOT

A 07:00 trip from Jerusalem added Sun.-Thur.

LINE 471 HAHASHMONA'IM - TEL AVIV

Change of bus number

Bus line 471 from Hahashmona'im to Tel Aviv, from Tel Aviv to Rehovot will be changed to No. 465. No change in timetable.

LINE 947 HAIFA - JERUSALEM

Passengers from Olga to Netanya may board bus.

GEDERA

LINE 1 CHANGE OF ROUTE

New Route: From terminal to Weizmann, corner Asher without change, continuing on Weizmann,

Lilienblum, Haga, Sprinzak, Sverdalov, Bilus, Cen. Bus Stn.

New Stops: 1. 12 Weizmann

2. Lilienblum Health Fund

3. Pines opp. Council Building

4. Weizmann corner Lilienblum

BEERSHEBA

LINE 051 BEERSHEBA - KIRYAT ARBA

18:50 trip from Beersheba will be shortened, ending at Carmel.

Return trip from Carmel to Beersheba at 20:00

LINE 060, 391

Will enter Atar HaHerum at Mitzpe Ramon in both directions.

HAIFA AND THE NORTH

LINE 72, 72A RECHASIM AND Kfar Hassidim - CHANGE OF ROUTE

Lines will begin and end at Kfar Hassidim.

LINE 067 SDE YA'ACOV - HAIFA

Line will be shortened.

The line will continue only to Tivon, Kikar Kiryat Amal.

LINE 192 HAIFA - DALYAT EL-CARMEI

Start and stop of line in Dalyat el-Carmel will be moved to the Soccer Field (near Gabor Factory)

SOUTHERN REGION

LOD

LINE 2 CHANGE OF ROUTE

New route: Cen. Bus Stn., Haim Moshe Shapira (Neve Nof), San Martin, Gavriel, Hahistadrut, Shlomo Hamelech, Pinkas, Mazaryk, Sd. Hat. Yifrah, Sd. Hatzionut, Haim Moshe Shapira, Mordechai Friedman, Segira, Valia Bet, Sd. Zahal, Herzl, Cen. Bus Stn.

Egged - Israel's Transportation



Barings was warned about fraud

VJAY JOSHI
SINGAPORE

BARINGS Bank, now broke because of the wrong bets of trader Nick Leeson, was warned last August about the dangers of giving Leeson too much power, Singapore investigators said yesterday.

They also revealed a letter from 1992 - before Leeson arrived in Singapore - expressing misgivings about letting him control trades and handle oversight of them, essentially policing himself.

In making the disclosures at a news conference, the investigators seemed at pains to show that the seeds of the Barings disaster were planted long before the 232-year-old British bank went broke last month because of Leeson's heavy betting on futures contracts.

The investigators also revealed that Barings Futures in Singapore only had one client. Leeson was doing the bulk of his trading for three Barings subsidiaries.

This implied Barings officials must have known they were spending millions of dollars of the group's own money on losing futures.

Sitting at a table facing reporters, the investigators described what they said was an internal audit in August 1994 of Barings operations in Singapore, which warned that Leeson had "excessive concentration of power."

The audit said this situation could lead to "error and fraud," said V.K. Rajah, a lawyer for Price Waterhouse, the international accountants who have been put in charge of Barings Futures Singapore operations.

Projected onto a wall behind

the investigators was a letter dated March 25, 1992. It was written by James Bax, a Barings director in Singapore, to Andrew Fraser, head of equities at Barings' London headquarters.

Leeson was about to take up his Singapore posting at that time and report directly to London in his new capacity.

"We are in danger of setting up a structure which will subsequently prove disastrous and with which we will succeed in losing either a lot of money, or client goodwill, or both," Bax wrote.

"In my view it is critical that we should keep clear reporting lines, and if this office is involved in SIMEX, then Nick (Leeson) should report to Simon (Jones) and then be ultimately responsible for the operations side," said the letter.

Jones, director of operations for Asia-Pacific, is based in Singapore, and Bax clearly wanted Leeson reporting to a superior in Singapore rather than London.

A key element of the recriminations over Barings' fall is the apparent lack of control over Leeson's dealings. He was in charge of trading as well as of squaring the books - a task critics say should have been done by someone else.

The news conference was held by lawyers and other representatives of the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (SIMEX), where Leeson traded; the Monetary Authority, Singapore's central bank; and Price Waterhouse.

The investigators said that even until Feb. 8, as Leeson's



Nick Leeson (left) is escorted from Frankfurt's Klapperfeld Police holding facility on Friday on his way to court. (AP)

futures bets grew bigger, senior Barings officials kept assuring the Singapore futures market regulators that they were in full control of the situation.

The bank fell last weekend after Leeson ran up \$1 billion in losses on futures. He fled Singapore on Feb. 23 and traveled through Malaysia for a week. He was arrested when he arrived in Frankfurt, Germany, with his wife on Thursday. Singapore wants him extradited. His wife, Lisa, was held briefly then released.

UN may challenge Serb road blockade

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - UN peacekeepers whose food is running out under a Bosnian Serb road blockade may have to be resupplied by helicopters protected by NATO warplanes, UN sources said yesterday.

More than 700 Dutch UN soldiers in the Moslem enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia have less than two days' food left.

UN spokesman Colum Murphy said peacekeeping troops in two other Moslem safe areas in the region were also short of food, fuel and medicine. He described the Serbs' refusal to let supply convoys reach them as "intolerable."

The squeeze follows claims by the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) that the UN is not doing enough to enforce their fraying cease-fire with Moslems, which took force at the start of the year.

Murphy said supplying the blockaded troops by air was not ruled out and that the UN had contingency plans ready but did not give details.

UN sources, who asked not to be identified, said UN commanders are considering using helicopters to fly supplies into the enclaves with NATO jet escorts.

Running the blockade in defiance of the BSA would be a radical change in policy for the UN which has mostly shunned from any risk of a military confrontation with the BSA.

As a result, the BSA has become used to dictating UN convoy operations on the 70 percent of Bosnia under its control after three years of fighting. The three Moslem enclaves affected are all deep inside Serb territory.

Murphy denounced sniping in Sarajevo in which four civilians and a French-UN peacekeeper

were wounded on Friday and called for an end to "cowardly and outrageous attacks."

The number of incidents has begun to rise with no apparent progress in international peace-making. All sides say the rival armies are using the truce to re-arm for another outbreak of war.

The cease-fire in Bosnia expires at the end of April. But the UN fears fighting could resume before then if Croatian President Franjo Tudjman carries out a threat to expel 12,000 UN peacekeepers from his country when their mandate expires at the end of March.

Their departure could set off fighting between the Croatian Army and rebel Serbs who control a third of Croatian territory in a conflict that would spread rapidly to Bosnia and possibly draw in the army of Serbian-led Yugoslavia.

'Wedge issues' stir up divisive US political dialogue

TOM RAUM
WASHINGTON

FROM abortion rights to flag burning, American political dialogue is again bristling with difficult, emotionally charged issues.

And the presidential election is still 21 months away.

Many of these items, including what President Clinton heatedly calls "wedge issues" - issues that drive a wedge between people - are being stirred up by the Republicans who seized control of Congress from Clinton's Democrats last November and by their campaign manifesto, the "Contract With America."

The debate rages as Clinton and Democrats shift footing, hoping to neutralize the Republican offensive and regain political balance.

Yet some of the thorniest issues were not part of the House Republicans' "contract" but are rumbling across the country in the gathering storm that will be the 1996 presidential election.

Count among those: abortion and a fierce Republican assault on affirmative action programs - policies designed to redress historical discrimination in hiring, college admission and other areas by granting preferential treatment to minorities and women.

The election is adding up to a campaign of heavy issues, far more so than usual.

"It's going to be an election

about two things: What kind of job has Bill Clinton done, and what kind of change do we want?" said Andrew Kohut, director of the Times-Mirror Center for the People and the Press.

Both of those echoed in the Senate last week as politicians struggled with an amendment to the US Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget by 2002.

Such an amendment long has been championed by conservatives but stood little chance of consideration until Washington's political climate changed almost overnight.

Senator Bob Dole, leader of the majority Republicans in the Senate, touched off another political powder keg - affirmative action - by suggesting that a quarter-century of laws and regulations meant to counter discrimination against minorities be reconsidered.

Republicans in the House of Representatives began taking whacks at such programs. And by the end of last week, Clinton himself had joined the call for a top-to-bottom review of racial preference programs.

And California voters are likely to vote next year on an initia-

tive banning racial preferences in employment and education.

The divisive-issues pot was stirred even more in recent days as Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander started their campaigns for the Republican presidential nomination.

Gramm promised that his first act, if elected, would be an executive order abolishing affirmative action programs.

Abortion wasn't a big issue in November's elections. But it has been reignited, in part by Clinton's selection and defense of Dr. Henry Foster as surgeon general.

Anti-abortion groups rushed forward trying to turn the Senate vote on the Tennessee gynecologist into a vote for or against abortion rights.

The fire was fueled by Ralph Reed of the conservative Christian Coalition, who warned Republicans that "pro-life and pro-family voters" would balk if the 1996 Republican ticket contained an abortion-rights candidate.

Other issues also are simmering.

On the Capitol steps last Tuesday, 1,500 people gathered to show support for a constitutional amendment to ban protest burnings of the US flag.

Talk about an amendment to allow prayers in public schools also is again in vogue. (AP)

Lisa Leeson: Collapse shocked us

LONDON (AP) - Lisa Leeson says she and her husband first heard about the collapse of Barings Brothers two days into a vacation in Borneo.

"We were both shocked," after reading of the collapse in a local newspaper, she told *Daily Mirror*.

"We just wanted to get back to England and find out what was going on." She said there was no intention to

flee Singapore.

"It was Nick's 28th birthday that weekend and I'd planned the trip in advance," she said.

"He's quite a workaholic. He'd been working very long hours and I had to persuade him to take a break."

That meant "no TV for starters," she told the *Mirror*. "We decided to go to Brunei to try to get back to England as quickly as

possible."

"It was hard saying goodbye to Nick," she said.

"Of course I will be standing by him - there's no question of that. I can't wait to see him again."

She rejected reports of Leeson's ostentatious wealth. "We don't have a Porsche or a yacht. We are just an ordinary couple."

'Other summit' stalks UN summit

COPENHAGEN - Thousands of activists from all over the world transformed an idled naval base into a bully-pulpit to fight for the world's poor yesterday.

Some 2,400 non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, opened a 10-day conference - their biggest ever - in tandem with the UN World Summit for Social Development, which opens tomorrow.

"The NGOs are the conscience and the watchdogs of the main summit," said Chile's UN ambassador, Juan Somavia.

The UN summit, bringing together 130 heads of state and government, is the brainchild of Somavia, who says the threat of the nuclear bomb has been replaced by a very different security hazard - a social time bomb bred by poverty and unemployment.

"It is the biggest gathering of world leaders and civil organizations in world history," said Somavia, who believes the summit will put the spotlight on growing poverty, unemployment and social inequities and galvanize governments into action.

"The NGOs will push for and contribute to the implementation of action plans decided by the politicians. I firmly believe the future of the UN depends on opening the windows and letting in the fresh air of civil society," Somavia said.

Aid workers, environmentalists, doctors and an array of other activists hope to enliven and inspire the UN diplomats and delegates - meeting across

town next week - to take action on poverty, unemployment and social inequalities.

Around Copenhagen, posters for the alternative summit showed a chair with a thumbtack on its seat, pointing up - a simple expression of the activists' goals.

UN delegates must "not fall asleep," said the head of NGO Forum '95, Jan Birke-Smith.

At the UN meeting, some 13,000 delegates will argue over whether to make any hard promises on alleviating poverty, redirecting foreign aid and "eradicating" unemployment. National leaders will sign a final document March 12.

UN officials have welcomed, even encouraged organizers of the NGO meeting, hoping to bring more pressure on government officials at the UN summit.

At the NGO conference, US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and British entertainer Peter Ustinov will be among the expected 10,000 participants.

President Clinton's wife will address the NGO meeting on Tuesday, while Ustinov will appear on Friday.

The venue is the 300-year-old Holmen Naval Base, now endangered by budget cuts. Activists moved into booths and stands flagged with each organization's solutions for a better world. (Agencies)

US Holocaust Museum director-elect quits

WASHINGTON (AP) - The newly selected director of the United States Holocaust Museum, under fire for questionable academic conduct, has resigned just two weeks before he was to take office.

Steven R. Katz letter of resignation to the museum yesterday said "the frivolous and non-meritorious allegations which have been asserted would unduly distract" from the museum's work.

After carrying out an investigation, the museum's board said a week ago that it would stand by Katz, who was scheduled to succeed founding director Yeshayahu Weinberg on March 16.

In accepting Katz' letter of resignation, museum chairman Miles Lerman said he was saddened and holds Katz' "integrity, intellectual vision and scholarship on the Holocaust in the highest regard."

Museum spokeswoman Mary Morrison said Katz was at his home in Binghamton, N.Y., and not reachable for comment.

Katz became a tenured Cornell professor in 1984. In March 1991, the Ivy League school barred him

from future study leaves because he taught at the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 while on a half-year's study leave.

"While we can study on sabbatical leave, we can't teach on study leave, but I did not know that," Katz said recently. "It was completely out of ignorance."

In resumes and university documents dating back to 1983, Katz also described a Holocaust book he was working on as "being prepared for publication."

But the project swelled into a multivolume work, and the first volume was not published until last year. In 1991, Katz had his salary frozen for three years for claiming his Holocaust book was near publication when it wasn't.

Katz called these technical violations, but Cornell officially censured him, finding him guilty of "academic misconduct."

"I made two unintentional and regrettable errors," Katz said. In his letter of resignation Katz said he appreciated the museum's support but "I have concluded that our mutual interests will best be served by my returning to academic life."

Iran gloats over US decline

NICOSIA (AP) - Iran's foreign minister gloated in an interview published yesterday that America's primacy in global affairs is "nearing its end."

"No power will remain preponderant forever," Ali Akbar Velayati told Tehran's *Akhbar* daily, adding that the world is becoming more "multi-polar."

He said Washington's "economic and financial rivalries" with Japan, China, Germany, France and Russia are proof that the "US cannot impose its views" on other countries anymore.

Iran is seeking to lure these nations into closer economic links despite US efforts to isolate Tehran because of its opposition to the Mideast peace process and involvement in international terrorism.

Japan and Germany last year agreed to reschedule billions of dollars in Iranian debt, much to Washington's dismay.

"Perhaps it was more difficult to say this a couple of years ago... today more people in the world feel that the era of the Americans' riding at full gallop in the world has neared its end."

US-Iranian animosity reached a minor peak this week with Washington's allegations that Tehran was deploying surface-to-air missiles in the Gulf.

Tehran called the allegations "propaganda," but said it reserved the right to defend itself.

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The Histadrut scandals

THE Histadrut scandals now being slowly exposed serve as a reminder that the only thing worse than acute corruption in public institutions is corruption so chronic that it fails to be noticed. Betrayal of trust, misuse of funds, and general malfeasance have apparently become so routine in this venerable institution that neither the perpetrators nor their colleagues view them as crimes. And if the responses of Histadrut officials to press queries are any indication, they live in a world in which "the good of the party" takes precedence over the law of the land.

Yet the current discoveries are not truly startling, for they reveal something most observers have been vaguely aware of for at least half a century: Histadrut funds - intended to serve the needs of dues-paying members - are habitually used to finance elections, conventions, and organizational expenses of the Labor Party.

The specific charges under investigation include an accusation that millions of shekels were spent in 1992 by then-secretary general Yisrael Kessar to finance his primary campaign for Labor Party leader and candidacy for prime minister. Ironically, Kessar himself - whose own lifestyle is so modest that he can hardly be suspected of improper personal gain - once said that "too many Histadrut office holders view the organization as a springboard to senior positions in the party or Knesset and forget that they first have to render service." But he conducted a campaign which cost many millions, and he let then-Histadrut treasurer Artur Yisraelovitz directly control the campaign funds.

What makes matters worse is that his run was no more than a political gambit intended to draw votes from Yitzhak Rabin's main opponent, Shimon Peres. Indeed, Kessar - now transportation minister - did garner enough votes to give Rabin the candidacy and subsequently the premiership.

Another case, about which former Histadrut

secretary-general Haim Haberfeld has been interrogated by police fraud investigators, involves four checks totaling NIS 600,000 paid to a bogus firm fronting for a private investigation company. Yisraelovitz, a signatory to one of the checks, is implicated in this unsavory transaction, too. And there are also suspicions about a sum of NIS 750,000 withdrawn from an educational-cultural fund and allegedly used for Haberfeld's campaign against current Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon. Other questions involve a break-in at the office of head of Youth and Sports wing Ya'acov Yishai and the planting of listening devices in his home. That officials would routinely keep their Histadrut jobs while working full-time in the election campaigns of Labor candidates is also being questioned.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of this saga is the modest, almost non-existent, role Ramon has played in it. As a reform candidate he wrought nothing less than a miracle: He challenged his own Labor Party and was expelled from it, yet he wrested power from the party for the first time in the Histadrut's history. Having defeated the entrenched bureaucracy by vowing reform, Ramon was expected to play a leading role in exposing manifestations of corruption. Specifically, he promised to let the state comptroller investigate the organization's irregularities. But he never delivered on this promise, and it was only in the past few days that he has called for a thorough police investigation, after it became obvious that one was going to take place anyway.

In recent weeks, Ramon made it clear that he wants to return to Labor's bosom, nor has he hidden his ambition to become a senior cabinet minister once more. It would be a shame if this ambition violates his reformist zeal and turns him into just another power-hungry, unscrupulous politician, oblivious to commitments he has solemnly made.

Money for peace

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's concern about the House of Representatives' refusal to "forgive" all of Jordan's debt is understandable. One of the reasons Jordan agreed to formalize its relationship with Israel by signing a peace treaty was that it expected to be helped economically.

The US, whose interest in an Arab-Israeli settlement is as fierce as it is sincere, was expected to "finance the peace" by considering Jordan's request for loan-cancellation sympathetically. After all, it has spent more than \$40 billion on foreign aid to Egypt since the Camp David Accords were signed, with little objection from Congress. The Jordanian request amounts to the relatively small sum of \$300 million.

What the administration obviously did not take into account is that a stubborn, conservative, Republican-ruled Congress is more eager to demonstrate frugality than to prove to Arab rulers that peace pays.

The implications of the Congressional move are far-reaching. Clearly, Syria is factoring

generous American handouts into the peace equation. Without them, the attractions of a peace treaty with Israel may pale in comparison with what Damascus considers its drawbacks. Yasser Arafat, too, expects to be paid handsomely and regularly for signing the Oslo agreement. It can be taken for granted that the White House is in agreement with Rabin and will try to persuade the Senate to reverse the House decision.

That moderates who choose to make peace with Israel should be financially rewarded is now the conventional wisdom. Yet one can only wonder about the firmness of a commitment to peace which relies on monetary compensation to make it palatable. It would be nice to believe that the intrinsic rewards of peace are such that, if anything, they merit sacrifices rather than pay-offs.

The proposition that peace is better than war and that the absence of bloodshed is its own unmatchable reward should be self-evident. It is not easy to feel comfortable with those who must be paid to believe it.

Ecological (non)sense

GREEN Mystics see nature as perfect, industry as a threat. They see all chemicals as life-threatening poisons and change as anathema.

They hope to maintain the status quo; yet there is no ecological status quo. Even the continents are shifting. Rapid growth in the world's population and related problems will force us to change the basic patterns of our society.

In the meantime, a great deal is being done, here and abroad, to minimize the environmental impact of this expansion. Things are getting better, not worse. And the improvement is largely attributable to the use of agricultural herbicides and fungicides, insecticides and industrial biocides.

The term "pesticide" has become a no-no in Green Mystic society. Yet during the Irish potato famine of the 1840s, a third of the population died because of a blight which could have been averted by modern fungicides.

And look at DDT: It has combated starvation and disease, saving millions of lives worldwide. The US National Cancer Institute found that "workers exposed to DDT for years... show no ill-effects and the incidence of cancer among them is below normal." Yet the pesticide was banned, totally or partially, owing to unfounded public pressure.

Of course, the improper use of agricultural chemicals is to be deplored. But their danger has been grossly exaggerated. For example, during a period in which some 150 people a year died from pesticides in the US (mostly as a result of children getting into family stores), there were about 7,000 deaths from drowning. In both cases better control, not curtailment, is the answer.

Pesticides and fertilizers have increased agricultural productivity greatly, decreasing the need to take over virgin fields for food production and increasing the amount of available arable land. In the US, they have quadrupled potato yields since 1920.

The Greens are pushing for the use of natural predators instead of pesticides. But most problematic agricultural pests were introduced from other countries and have no local predators. So these too must be imported. But this introduces another species which has no local enemy.

The damage caused by the accidental introduction of lampreys into Canada's Great Lakes, and the deliberate importation of

LEONARD M. SHORR

killer bees into South America, are examples of the dangers inherent in this approach.

Many people believe that natural products are safest and best. Yet strychnine, curare, opium and ergot are just a few natural poisons. In Israel, over 1,000 people die each year from lung cancer caused primarily by inhaling the smoke from burning tobacco, a natural substance. The overall number of deaths annual-

Green Mystics warn of global doom - but life on earth is actually getting better

ly from smoking-related diseases is 5,000.

Many foods - black pepper, celery, parsnips, figs, parsley, rhubarb, coffee, chocolate, and tea are examples - contain substances which are toxic when taken in large doses or high concentrations. And glucose and common salt have produced cancer in laboratory animals when injected as 20 percent and 15 percent solutions respectively. Conversely, chlorine was used as a toxic gas in World War I, but in low concentrations serves as a disinfectant in swimming pools.

CONSUMER societies in developed countries have ever-increasing demands, and those of developing countries will increase as they strive to catch up.

This will require increasingly more energy (from fossil fuels, primarily coal and oil) and raw materials such as metals and oil for plastic. The rate at which raw materials are exhausted will increase, and there will be more waste.

Over the past decade Haifa has reduced the discharge of industrial sulfur dioxide (a major component of acid rain) by as much as 80 percent in its most troublesome neighborhoods to levels considerably below the most stringent international standards.

What about waste carbon dioxide? More than a million tons a year are produced worldwide from fossil-fuel combustion to energize our industries and automobiles (and from our own breathing). But it hasn't brought about

the predicted "greenhouse-effect" warming of the earth. According to the University of Virginia's *World Climate Review*, temperatures in North America have on average remained essentially unchanged since 1890.

Much is being done in advanced countries to provide alternative energy sources, and recycling is on the increase.

Israel is a world leader in the use of solar energy, and the Israel Electric Co. is launching a program to produce energy using windmills. The Dan region and Haifa have had sewage treatment and water-recycling plants for years; both are scheduled for expansion.

Recycling non-replenishable raw materials is necessary, but difficult to implement economically. And in Israel, it isn't always the important materials that get recycled.

Glass, for example, is an environmental nuisance, but its raw materials are essentially inexhaustible and little, if any, energy is saved by recycling it. The production of new aluminum, on the other hand, requires 30 times more energy than reprocessing waste aluminum.

Israel's major problem by far remains population growth. At the present growth rate of more than 2 percent per annum, it will take less than 300 years for Israel's population to equal the US's today. And in less than 200 years, with current burial practices, more than half the country will be covered in gravestones.

Only societies as a whole can meet the challenges of population growth. Industry has made vital contributions by developing contraceptive devices, agrochemicals for more effective use of arable land, replacement products to conserve raw materials, and automobile after-burners for controlling pollution. Organizations like Econet (formerly called the Israel Agency for Nuclear Information) which arouse public anxiety unnecessarily and see their role as fighting big business are simply counterproductive.

Despite the evidence, Green Mystics continue to prophesy doom. As George Bernard Shaw said: "There is no harder scientific fact... than the fact that belief can be produced in practically unlimited quantity and intensity, without observation or reasoning and even in defiance of both."

The writer is a consultant in industrial chemistry.

Bang, bang

ROY. E. LAPIDUS

ISRAEL prides itself on having the best security in the world. And on the national and international level it may be true.

But what about everyday civilian, industrial and even basic military security? That leaves much to be desired. Despite Israeli developments in some branches of electronic detection, in many ways this country still operates on the "Cowboys-and-Indians" level.

Israeli firms tend to cling to the outdated idea that security officers must have a military or police background. Yet such personnel are trained for a very different field of action. While they do have some basic experience - guard duty, for example - typical recruits lack the training required of a modern security officer.

A security officer needs knowledge similar to an accountant's. He needs to know administration, budgeting and finance, as well as systems auditing, computers and criminal law. And, of course, he needs training in the actual business of security, fire prevention and general safety.

In one very large US gasoline distribution company, the security system is a sub-division of the internal audit division. This is quite logical, as security and an-

Israel's security officers are still playing Cowboys and Indians

dit both deal with wastage prevention.

Many large organizations here have become blinkered in the employment of security personnel. Virtually all jobs for industrial and municipal security officers are "jobs for the boys." The positions are never advertised, and are invariably given to ex-military officers, usually former Hebron anti-colonels. This policy excludes new immigrants - many of whom are better trained - from developed countries like Britain and the US.

ISRAELI COURSES for training security officers are superficial compared with British and American courses.

For example, there is very little education in fire and safety, as opposed to an over-emphasis on firearm-training. This despite the fact that there are very few occasions when one is legally allowed to use such a weapon.

In situations which demand resorting to a gun, there would usually also be a need for a complete police or anti-terrorist unit, and not a lone security officer armed with a pistol.

Security training in Britain ranges from technical vocational training, through further education to postgraduate level. In the US, only university graduates can take Certified Protection Personnel (CPP) exams.

Many Israeli security officers lack a good command of English or German and so cannot keep abreast of modern security concepts which appear in the profession's English, American and German publications. (There are no regular security publications in Hebrew.)

An example of Israel's outdated thinking can be seen in the disgraceful condition of guard dogs, both military and civilian. In the IDF, especially the air force, the way they are treated often borders on cruelty. This points to the incompetence of the security officer, with whom responsibility for guard dogs lies, and who probably wouldn't allow firearms to be kept under the same conditions.

Many Israeli guard companies are simply moneymaking rackets, employing people with inadequate professional training.

Organizations which do provide training usually do so in three-day courses during which much time is devoted to "firepower." Yet a basic knowledge of first aid (a modern requirement of all security staff) alone requires a week's training.

Israel isn't the only backward country in this field. But compared to many others, it's still in the Dark Ages.

The writer, a security professional and industrial accountant, is a member of several international professional security associations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRIMINAL PAST

Sir, - I must take exception to the conclusions reached by Alon Liel in his op-ed article of February 17. He goes to great lengths to explain the extradition hearing in America of Ziad Abu Ain, known to have killed two teenagers in Tiberias and wounded dozens more by detonating a bomb in their midst. The hearings were to determine whether this act was political and therefore non-extraditable, or criminal. The American court ruled that he should be extradited as a common criminal. Abu Ain was convicted only to be released in the infamous Jibril exchange a few years later.

Now Ziad Abu Ain has reappeared in the prominent respected position of comptroller of the Palestine Authority.

Mr. Liel claims that rehabilitation of criminals is constructive - and I cannot disagree with him on this. However, in no country that I know of can a convicted criminal be elevated to such a prominent and responsible position. Moreover, had the Jibril exchange not taken place, Abu Ain would still be in prison today, as a criminal whose hands were stained with Jewish blood.

Mr. Liel's muddled thinking confers upon Abu Ain and his ilk precisely that legitimacy which the American court denied them. Our government's refusal to veto such appointments violates the sense of moral outrage which most Israelis share.

Does Arafat have no other suitable applicants for these positions? Or is he deliberately advancing his fellow thugs to humiliate and insult us?

DR. AMIEL UNGAR

Tekoa.

THE NEW MIDDLE EAST

Sir, - In your editorial "The natural separation" (February 20), you state that "with total closure in full force, the police apprehended workers who had managed to evade the roadblocks and checkpoints at the rate of 500 a day. This implies that at least twice as many have managed to go back and forth undetected."

Add to this the estimate made by the GSS that between 70 and 100 individuals are designated to carry out suicide attacks.

In view of these figures, what difference does it make how many Palestinian workers are allowed to work in Israel? As a matter of fact, in previous years, when 120,000 Palestinians worked in Israel, there were fewer terrorist attacks than now. It was in the self-interest of these workers not to make any trouble. In the long run, there are no better conditions for peaceful coexistence than economic interdependence between Israel and the Palestinians.

It is rather ironic that a dove like Yossi Sarid recommends complete separation (and a payment of \$1 billion to the PA to provide what amounts to unemployment benefits to Palestinian workers). Is this the vision of "The New Middle East" where you trust Thais and Romanians more than your neighbors?

To summarize: since terror cannot anyway be avoided by separation, let's save the above-mentioned \$1b. and the cost of importing foreign workers and let the Palestinians work here and enjoy the benefits of Israel's existence.

DR. JACOB ROSIN

Netanya.

DIFFERENCE OF ATTITUDES

Sir, - Because I occasionally write for *The Jerusalem Post* in a free-lance capacity and am a member of the Israeli community, I sometimes find myself the butt of complaints about inaccurate reporting of Israeli affairs, and the anti-religious or anti-haredi stance taken by some of the paper's contributors. A case in point is Michal Yudelman's "Spice hunters" in *The Week* that was of February 10.

Firstly, Chaim Miller does not represent Shas, as she states.

Secondly, I personally and many people I know have long had an uneasy feeling about some of the photographs displayed at Yad Vashem. Are we all to be defined as sex perverts, miserable wretches or mentally deranged, as well as not Jewish?

The pictures are, on the one hand, extremely powerful and convey an important message, while on the other hand, the women photographed would almost certainly not have agreed - had anyone asked them - that photos of their unclothed selves be openly displayed for all the world to see. Exhibiting the photos in public seems to us, therefore, somehow to perpetuate the dehumanizing efforts of the Nazis.

It is a shame that Yudelman and the *Ma'ariv* columnist Tommy Lapid, whom she quotes, seem unable to approach this conflict in an adult fashion and find it necessary to poke fun at people whose attitude differs from theirs.

JUDITH WEIL

Jerusalem.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



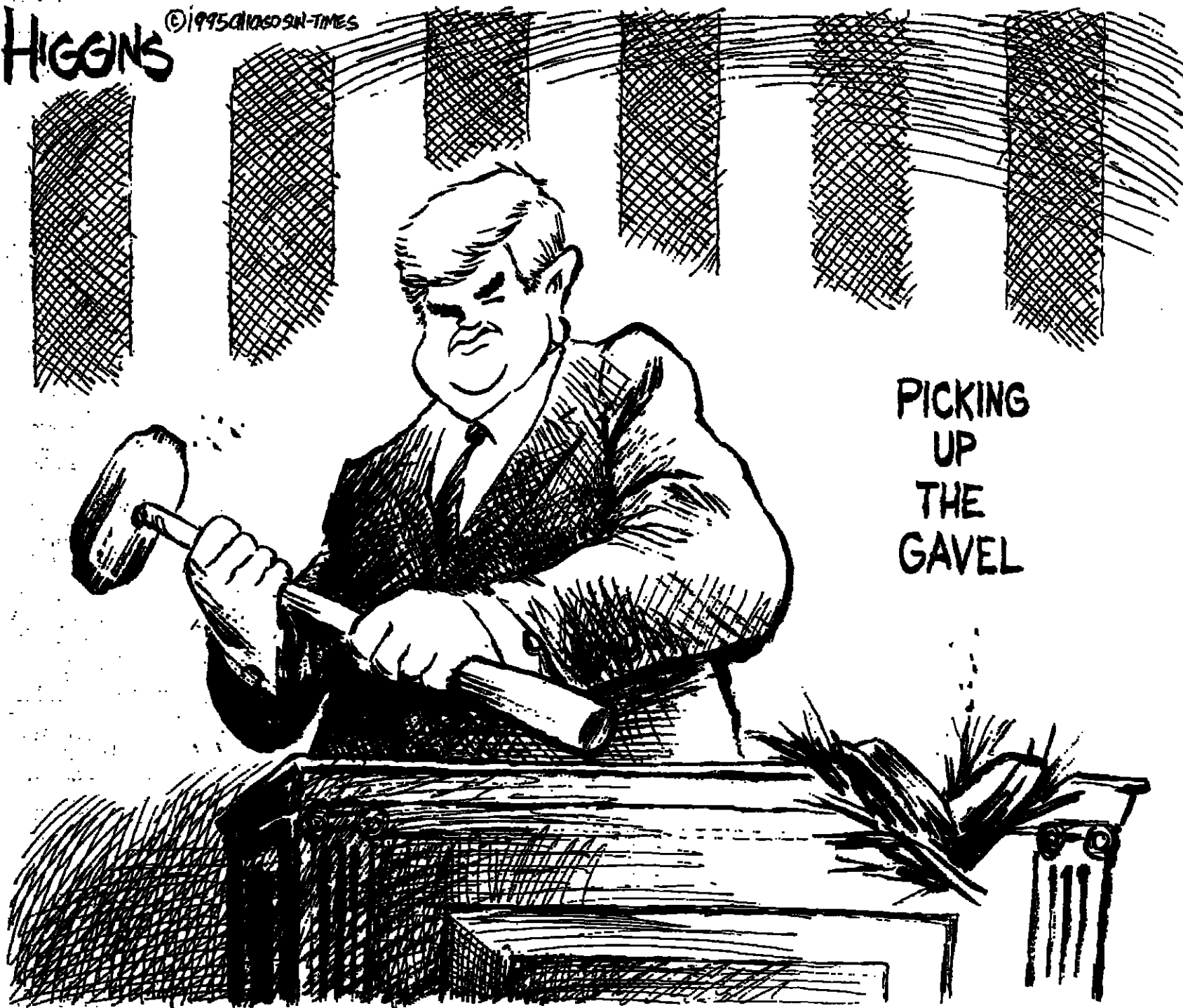
Shinto priests perform a bracha over the prototype of Japan's new fighter plane.

(AP)

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, March 5, 1995

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Justice Breyer's excellent debut

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Hard cases do not always make bad law, as a recent Supreme Court case demonstrates. Indeed, how we resolve close cases — cases in which the judge experiences "grave doubts" — tells us much about our values as a society. For several years now, the Supreme Court has generally been resolving close questions, even in criminal cases where life hangs in the balance, favorably to the prosecution and against the life of the possibly innocent accused. In several recent cases, particularly from Texas, the high court has permitted the execution of men who were very possibly innocent of the crimes for which they were sentenced to death.

Now, in what appears to be a subtle but discernible shift in attitude, a majority of the justices seem to be moving toward striking the balance in favor of the accused. Most importantly, this change is being led by the court's newest justices — Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg — and is being joined by enough centrists to form an emerging majority.

The question in the most recent case was how a judge should decide a close habeas corpus case in which a constitutional error was clearly made at trial, but where the judge is not sure whether the error affected the verdict. A bit of background is necessary to understand why this is even a close question. After all, we live under a system which professes to believe that "it is better for 10 guilty to go free than for even one innocent to be wrongly convicted." Surely

They ought to be more humble about their ability to decide — on the basis of a cold record — what weight the jury might have given the constitutional error.

such a system should resolve all reasonable doubts in favor of the accused. And our system does precisely that — at the trial. But after a defendant has been convicted, he no longer enjoys a presumption of innocence. Indeed, he is now presumed guilty and his trial is presumed to have been fair, especially if his state conviction has been affirmed on appeal and he is bringing a writ of habeas corpus in the federal courts, claiming that the state courts violated his constitutional rights.

In order for the defendant to secure the benefits of habeas corpus — sometimes called "The Great Writ" because of its centrality to Anglo-American democracy — he must show that he is "in custody in violation of the Constitution." But it is not enough that there be "custody" and a "constitutional violation" in the abstract: the law requires that the "custody" must have been caused by the "constitutional violation." Thus, if the defendant would still have been convicted even in the absence of the constitutional violation, then it cannot be said that he is in custody because of the constitutional violation.

The courts have developed a concept that reflects this required causal relationship between the constitutional violation and the custody; this concept is called "harmless error." If the conviction would have been rendered by the jury even in the absence of the constitutional error, that error is called harmless. To invoke a basketball analogy, "no harm, no foul."

The problem with this concept is that few appellate judges who have to decide whether a constitutional error affected the jury's verdict have ever been trial lawyers. For example, there is not a single experienced criminal trial lawyer on the entire Supreme Court. These judges are not in a particularly good position to assess the impact of a constitutional error on the dynamics of a complex trial. Yet that is their job.

In some cases, it is an easy job. Minor errors, which do not go to the essence of the case, are usually harmless; and significant errors going to the heart of the truth-finding process are generally harmful. But what about those errors about which the judge simply cannot be sure? Although both the majority and the dissenting opinions opine that such cases will be few in number, they are wrong. In a large number of cases, no appellate judge can really be sure of the impact of the error on the trial. They ought to be more humble about their ability to decide — on the basis of a cold record — what weight the jury might have given the constitutional error.

Justice Breyer ruled that cases of grave doubt must be resolved in favor of the defendant. Justice Clarence Thomas, along with Justices William H. Rehnquist and Antonin Scalia, would resolve all such doubts in favor of the prosecution. Their differences, though technical, go to the essence of our system of justice: Justice Breyer reads the law as preferring the occasional release and retrial of some guilty defendants over the continued confinement or execution of some possibly innocent defendants. Justice Thomas interprets the same law as preferring the confinement and execution of some possibly innocent defendants over the release and retrial of some guilty. Our long traditions of liberty would seem to suggest that the newest justice has the better of the argument.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse" (Little, Brown & Company).

Quest for Survival Drives Dems to Trash Gingrich

In an effort to protect their turf, Democrats are attempting to compromise the powers that be namely Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

BY ROBERT NOVAK

At a recent Washington dinner party, a prominent Democratic congressman enthusiastically discussed what he called "The Project": a coordinated, calculated effort that would culminate in the political destruction of Newt Gingrich.

A week later, an obscure Democratic House member from Florida named Harry Johnston spilled the beans in his keynote address to a party convention in Boca Raton. He disclosed that the House Democratic leadership has embarked on a day-by-day plan to "investigate" the House speaker and drive him from office. "We meet once a week to cover what he's done through the week," said Rep. Johnston, promising that "we're going to stay on his back."

The Project

Johnston was not just blowing steam. When, two days later on CNN's "Crossfire," House Minority Whip David Bonior was asked about Johnston's inpolitic remarks, he replied: "We talk about Gingrich every day." Minority Leader Richard Gephardt is represented at those

The destruction of Newt no longer is merely retribution for Gingrich's role in driving Speaker Jim Wright from office.

meetings, and the White House is kept informed. The Democratic National Committee publishes a weekly "NewtGram," trashing the speaker (its Feb. 17 edition cited left-wing Texas columnist

Molly Ivins as evidence that "calls for an outside counsel [to investigate Gingrich] continued to pour in").

The Project is the basic Democratic response to the 104th Republican Congress. Gingrich looms as a dynamic, visionary leader in

The reason we attack Gingrich is that we don't have anything else to say. The problem is that this just undermines our own message. It's a mistake.

the mold of Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan. His program is pursued with spirit and determination I have not witnessed on Capitol Hill in my 38 years in Washington. Thus, the destruction of Newt no longer is merely retribution for Gingrich's role in driving Speaker Jim Wright from office. It is a matter of Democratic survival.

To demolish Gingrich, the ethical allegation against him has been that his political contributors have partially bankrolled his college course, which, not surprisingly, has an ideological flavor. This case is so weak that Bonior has raised the stakes by asserting that Gingrich gets free time on television channels whose owners have business before Congress. The minority whip calls that "serious," involving "bribery, a solicitation charge."

Clearly, stronger poison is needed. Rep. Mac Collins (R-Ga.) recently told Gingrich that the Democratic district attorney in Griffin, Ga., had urged him to pass a bizarre story on to the speaker.

The prosecutor had been sought out by several reporters and Democratic politicians asking about a woman who many years ago was a babysitter for Gingrich's children but recently died in prison, where she was serving a sentence for murder. The question asked was whether she had implicated Gingrich in sexual misconduct with her. Johnnie Caldwell Jr., the Griffin DA, did not

return my phone call.

Gingrich and his wife, Marianne, are sickened that such unsubstantiated scandal-mongering is explored by reputable journalists, including one nationally renowned investigative reporter. Dining last week with friends, Mrs. Gingrich was even more incensed than her husband.

Much of this could have been averted if, following the Nov. 8 election, Gingrich had cleared the decks: no college course, no television program, no book deals. These avenues of communication were no longer necessary for Gingrich now that he was speaker, and they were less essential as income augmenters considering his expanded government salary. Gingrich has resisted this argument, and by now, such action would be seen as an admission of guilt.

But this at heart is a Democratic problem. I approached two very senior liberal Democratic congressmen, whom I noted had not joined the Newt-bashing revels. Neither would speak on the record, but their comments were brutally frank.

Attacks

"The reason we attack Gingrich is that we don't have anything else to say," one congressman told me. "The problem is that this just undermines our own message. It's a mistake."

The other lawmaker asserted that attacks on the speaker deflected attention from the Democratic Party's bitter divisions on issues starting with affirmative action. "I don't feel I have a party now," he said.

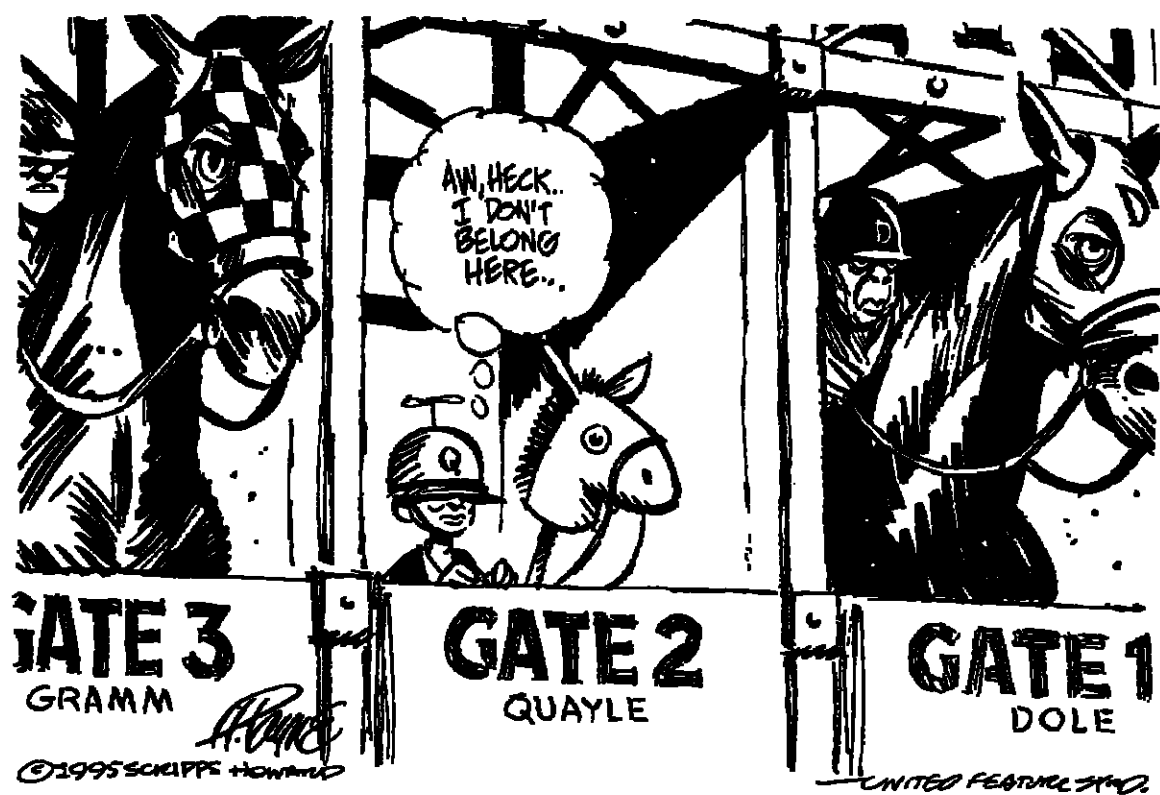
The worst problem for the Democrats is that it is hard to find anybody who really thinks The Project will send Newt Gingrich the way of Jim Wright. But that does not mean that they will not do whatever they think it takes to make it happen.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



PRESIDENT CHARLIE BROWN



Wall Street blues

By DOUGLAS PAYNE

If you plow through the articles in the financial press about the Mexican peso meltdown, you notice the same names offering expert opinions on the crisis over and over again. You also see that many of these figures are not exactly neutral. They are "analysts," "strategists" or officers of investment banks and brokers that are major players in emerging global markets: Goldman Sachs; Merrill Lynch; Fidelity Investments; Bear Stearns; Salomon Brothers; J.P. Morgan; and others. And if you read closely enough, you notice not only that the recent Mexican bailout saves the skins of Wall Street investors who gambled and lost, but also that some of these high-fliers weren't just gambling. They were, in fact, loading the dice.

In addition to the big firms, many lesser-known outfits pop up as well. Reading dozens of stories each day on the crisis, I came across many; but it was one name — the Weston Group — that kept ringing a bell. I went back through pre-meltdown files to find out why. What I discovered was a story, "some mutual funds wield growing clout in developing nations," on the front page of the June 14, 1994 Wall Street Journal. Written by Craig Torres and Thomas T. Vogel Jr., it revealed that a number of Wall Street institutions, especially mutual fund underwriters, influenced the disastrous Mexican economic policies to a far greater degree than they are now admitting.

Torres, one of The Wall Street Journal's Mexico City-based correspondents, has been the paper's lead reporter on the crisis. Since December he has probably written more words and supplied more quotations from the usual suspects than anyone else. Most of these quotes analyzed what Mexico had done wrong. But it all circled back to the now-notorious tesobonos, short-term dollar-denominated bonds used to finance Mexico's long-term debt.

Before 1994, tesobonos were not a big deal. Most investors opted for cetes, peso-denominated bonds, because they offered higher interest rates. Both cetes and tesobonos are short-term bonds that were offering hefty returns, anywhere from 15 percent to 50 percent. The difference is that when an investor wants to cash in dollar-indexed tesobonos, Mexico must redeem them in pesos calculated in dollars; with cetes, they are calculated in pesos. That means that if the peso loses value, the Mexican government loses, not the tesobono investor.

None of that seemed to matter before 1994, since the Mexican government was committed to maintaining the value of the peso within its designated trading range, and NAFTA seemed to ensure a steady flow of foreign capital that would allow it to do so. Some concerns were expressed about the growing current account deficit and the overvalued peso, but with close to \$30 billion in hard currency reserves in Mexico's central bank at the end of 1993 and investment flows expected to increase, most "analysts" said all was well.

In early 1994 the specter of political instability caused many

investors to get cold feet. After the Chiapas uprising, the peso began to slide against the dollar, eroding the yields of cetes and other peso-denominated instruments. Then, after Luis Donaldo Colosio, the ruling party presidential candidate, was assassinated last March, hot money — security and bond investments, which account for more than half of all foreign investment in Mexico, indeed in all of Latin America — started moving out of Mexico. The Mexican government, looking to reassure managers of U.S. mutual funds, promised that the peso's slide would be halted.

It wasn't, and U.S. fund managers took action. Some of them organized a consortium in April to lean on Mexico to insure the funds against a further weakening of the peso and to guarantee maximum returns on their investments. Do it, they made clear, or we will move our capital out of Mexico. That was what Torres and Vogel reported in The Wall Street Journal last June. And that brings us back to the Weston Group.

Soon after the peso melted down in December, it became clear that Mexico was in danger of defaulting on billions of dollars worth of tesobonos. But with Mexico's central bank reserves dwindling, and with few investors expected to reinvest as in the past, Mexico found itself short of the cash needed to redeem them. Torres and David Wessel reported in The Wall Street Journal on Dec. 29: "The reason for the mess is that, with foreign investment in these bonds increasing more than tenfold this year (1994), about \$9.72 billion in tesobonos will mature between now and the end of March, according to the Weston Group, a U.S. firm specializing in peso securities."

"Specializing," indeed. What Torres and Wessel did not point out in December, or in subsequent reporting, is that the Weston Group had organized an investor consortium in April to lean on the Mexican government.

The question of fiduciary responsibility in the conduct of the Weston Forum and other investors needs to be addressed.

The actions of the consortium — called the Weston Forum — explain in significant part why the Mexican government adopted policies that led to the meltdown. Liegey arranged two meetings for the Weston Forum with Mexican central bank officials and with Guillermo Ortiz, now Mexico's finance secretary, then the undersecretary. The Forum gave the Mexican officials a list of "policy suggestions" that now appear to have been far more in the short-term interest of the Forum than in the long-term interest of the Mexican economy.

The Forum wanted Mexico to slow the peso's daily devaluation. It wanted the government to insure investors against losses if the peso dipped below the prescribed range. And it wanted Mexican banks to be allowed to increase their hard currency liabilities to boost the Mexican banks' peso

buying, which of course would then leave the banks at greater risk if the peso fell. In effect, the Forum wanted Mexico to further overvalue the peso and assume the risk. Not a great deal for Mexico, but the Mexican government had little choice and the Weston Forum must have known it.

Mexican officials acknowledge that the fund managers are important players in their economy. But they deny that they are bowing to the Weston Forum's demands.

Soon after, Mexico issued longer-term tesobonos as the Weston Forum had asked, and cut back on the size of auctions of cetes. Liegey told Torres and Vogel that as a result in less than two months foreign investors pumped about \$2.5 billion into the devaluation-insured tesobonos, up to half from Weston Forum members. Liegey also said that the Forum was pressing Mexico to implement more of its suggestions, but "we've gotten a good portion of what we asked for." Torres concluded his article by noting that, "Mexican officials acknowledge that the fund managers are important players in their economy. But they deny that they are bowing to the Weston Forum's demands."

Given that the actions of the Weston Forum were reported on the front page of The Wall Street Journal last June, it is intriguing that in the current news stories about the crisis reporters and the familiar quote merchants seem perplexed as to why Mexico implemented the policies it did. At least part of the answer is in Torres and Vogel's article in The Wall Street Journal last June. Of course Torres seems to have forgotten that article himself; he is still relying on the Weston Group, and the other usual suspects, for comment on the crisis, as if Weston were simply a knowledgeable bystander, not a key player.

The question of fiduciary responsibility in the conduct of the Weston Forum and other investors needs to be addressed. They appear to have been willing to take huge sums of money belonging to clients who may not fully understand what is at stake, and to use those sums not just to bet on emerging markets but to leverage governments into potentially disastrous policies because those policies would maximize short-term profits. But when the bubble bursts at least in part because of those policies, we find them in the financial press expressing their "expert" judgment that the United States should come to the rescue.

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FEATURES
SYNDICATE

Withdrawal symptoms

BY LEON WIESELTIER

A great debate on foreign policy is taking place in Washington, but it is not exactly the debate that Washington thinks is taking place.

The occasion is the passage by the House of the National Security Revitalization Act, which proposes to make into law the provisions of the Contract with America that treat America's duties beyond America's borders, with the objective of diminishing or denying those duties. "We don't want to be the patsy of the world anymore," Rep. Dana Rohrabacher thoughtfully observed about the role that the United States has played in the world for the past half-century. "The nation has gone too far in the direction of globalism," Rep. Dick Armey warned, "and we intend to correct that."

Globalism

The correction takes the form of congressional interference in the president's ability to place the troops of the United States under the command of the United Nations. For the Republicans, American participation in U.N. peacekeeping forces embodies the globalism they despise. Their bill requires the administra-

The nation has gone too far in the direction of globalism

tion to charge the United Nations for the costs of American support of U.N. peacekeeping missions. Last year such costs (for the transportation of troops and equipment, for example) came to \$1.7 billion. The National Security

Revitalization Act, in short, is designed to make peacekeeping impossible by bankrupting it. The president and the secretary of state and the secretary of defense are all outraged, and are lobbying hard and threatening a veto. They believe that they are fighting the good fight, beating back the Republican tradition of isolationism in the name of the Democratic tradition of internationalism.

They are half right. The Republicans (look who suddenly insist on micromanaging foreign policy from the Hill!) are indeed interested in an American withdrawal from the world. And there have indeed been conflicts in

The Republicans want the United States out of the United Nations because they do not want to project American power abroad, and the Democrats want the United States in the United Nations because they do not want to project American power abroad.

the world in which U.N. peacekeeping missions have played important and positive roles: in Mozambique, in Guatemala, in Angola, in Macedonia. And yet the administration's enthusiasm for the peacekeepers from Turtle Bay is not altogether supportable. In those conflicts of the post-cold war world that are most representative of the post-cold war world — in Bosnia, in Rwanda, in Somalia, in Chechnya — the U.N. played a negative role or no role at all. In Bosnia especially, peacemaking has looked more and more like a kind of passive warmaking, and

the reputation of the United Nations has forever been tarnished by it.

Opposition

The falsity of the administration's opposition to the Republican bill does not end there. For Clinton agrees with Newt Gingrich that the United Nations is the perfect symbol, and the perfect instrument, of globalism. The foreign policy of the Clinton administration has been largely a long, fitful, callow and occasionally dishonest subordination of the authority of the United States to the authority of the United Nations. It has called this multilateralism, when in truth it is a usurpation of American power — and at a time when American power is just about all the power that is left to restrain, by its use or by the sincere threat of its use, the tribalisms and the authoritarianisms that are wreaking havoc in the world, and in some places wreaking genocide. For this administration, it is a matter of principle for America not to lead.

So this is the debate that is taking place: The Republicans want the United States out of the United Nations because they do not want to project American power abroad, and the Democrats want the United States in the United Nations because they do not want to project American power abroad. In Washington, in 1995, there are no internationalists. The Republican assault on internationalism would be mischievous anytime. But turn inward, while Clinton is president? They really must be mad.

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Workfare wimp-out

BY MICKEY KAUS

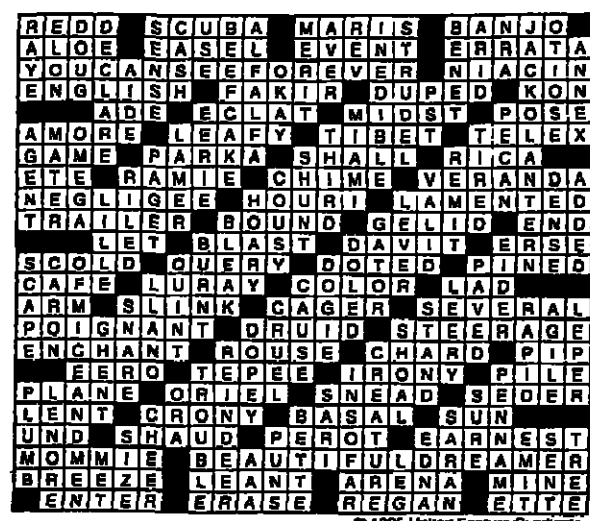
Call me naive, but I almost believed House Republicans when they pledged in their Contract with America to reform welfare through "a tough two-years-and-out provision with work requirements." Making welfare recipients work, after all, is wildly popular. (If it weren't, it wouldn't be in the contract.) I figured Newt Gingrich had talked so much about the need for a "mandatory requirement of work for everybody" that he might actually mean it, or at least would be too embarrassed to admit he didn't mean it. I underestimated him.

House Republicans unveiled their welfare reform plan on Feb. 10. Most welfare-watchers expected the new bill to dilute somewhat the contract's work provisions. But few expected the abject abandonment of any credible attempt to require work. Yet the new GOP bill, as unveiled by Rep. Clay Shaw, is not only weaker on the work issue than President Clinton's welfare proposal, it is in some respects weaker than the current welfare law Republicans deride.

It's certainly a long way from the Contract with America. The contract would have required work by those who had received welfare for 24 months. Work meant "an average of not fewer than 35 hours per week." No funny business. By 2003, 50 percent of the welfare caseload (which currently contains 5 million households) would be working. The rationale behind these provisions was obvious: if potential welfare recipients (mainly young women) knew they were really going to have to work after two years, they might think twice before doing the things (mainly becoming single mothers) that put them on welfare in the first place. But Republican governors, it turns out, don't like work requirements much — in part because putting a welfare mother to work costs money (an extra \$6,000 to pay for supervisors and day care), according to the Congressional Budget Office. Why raise state taxes to make welfare recipients work when you can cycle them through relatively cheap education and "job search" programs while claiming to be a great reformer? That's what Michigan's Republican Gov. John Engler has done. Engler's inflated reputation was recently punctured in a series of articles by journalist David Whitman. But that didn't stop him from leading the charge to gut the contract's work requirements, after House Republicans decided to negotiate with GOP governors over the shape of welfare reform. Engler's mission was successful. Look, first, at the numbers. Shaw's new bill requires that, in 1996, states place 2 percent of the welfare caseload "in work activities." The requirement rises to 20 percent — not the contract's 50 percent — by 2003. In meeting these requirements, governors could count the 6 percent of recipients who already work at least part-time. Another 5 percent are already required to work by a 1988 welfare reform. With a little creative bookkeeping — say, by counting all those who work over the course of a year, even for a few days — most governors could today meet even the 20 percent standard without doing anything they're not already doing.

But creative bookkeeping won't be necessary, because the Shaw bill lets the states decide what a "work activity" is. It needn't be actual work. Under the bill, a governor could declare, as Engler has, that checking a book out of a library counts as a "work activity." Leafing through the want ads might also qualify, or circulating a resume, or attending a "self-esteem" class. Republicans criticized President Clinton's reform plan because it only would have required approximately 500,000 recipients, or about 10 percent of the caseload, to be in a work program by 2003. But at least they would really have to be working. The House Republicans say they will put "at least 1 million cash welfare recipients in work programs by 2003," but the "work" could be completely phony. Workfare, you might call it. It is all the more likely to be fake because the Shaw bill provides no money to make it real. (The contract had provided \$9.9 billion.) House Republicans don't even try very hard to pretend they haven't caved on the work issue. It was the price, they argue, of getting the governors to agree to a stingy "block grant," and to accept the contract's cutoff of aid to young unwed mothers. The price was too high even for some conservatives. Robert Rector, the Heritage Foundation's welfare expert, called Shaw's work provisions a "major embarrassment." Shaw now says he will try to shore up the work requirements — specifying what counts as a "work activity," for example. But it may be difficult to convince the governors to endorse a major stiffening. It also may be too late. The premise of the GOP's new state-based welfare bill, after all, is that the nation's governors are reformist tigers who need only to be unleashed by the bureaucrats in Washington. But the governors have now shown their hand, and it's obvious to all that they have no appetite for radical reform. With great effort, they have turned the contract's ambitious scheme into a bill that allows them to preserve the status quo. These days, the Republicans' welfare reform is looking less like a menace and more like a fraud.

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A notorious match made in France

French attorney Jacques Verges is certain his current client, Carlos the Jackal, will not be convicted, Jacob Dallah writes

It was a holiday weekend last August when France triumphantly announced that it had captured the world's most wanted terrorist.

He was responsible for the deaths of more than 80 people, in a reign of terror that spanned two decades. The French had been searching for him for years, but he eluded capture by hiding in various Eastern European and Arab countries.

Today, half a year after his capture, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, or Carlos the Jackal, sits alone in his cell at La Santé, a maximum-security prison in Paris. Six guards watch over him. When he leaves his cell, the prison hall is cleared so that he cannot communicate with other inmates.

Carlos is allowed to see almost no one. This is a far cry from his heady days in East Berlin in the 1970s as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's top terrorist, or as terrorist emeritus living outside Damascus with his wife and daughter in the mid '80s.

The case against Carlos is proceeding very slowly. The French government is reopening files, trying to widen the scope of the charges. No date has been set for a trial.

ABOUT THE only person Carlos is allowed to see these days is his lawyer, Jacques Verges. There is a certain chemistry between the two: Verges is notorious among lawyers, as Carlos is among terrorists.

Verges was born to a Vietnamese mother on the French island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. He converted to Islam after marrying an Algerian woman whom he defended against terrorist charges during France's war with Algeria in the late '50s. Since then, Verges has defended many linked with violence and terror, including Klaus Barbie, the Nazi responsible for the deaths of thousands of French Jews during World War II.

In 1982 Verges defended Carlos's future wife, Magdalena Kaupp, a member of the German Red Army terror group. The

French press reported that files from the Stasi (the former East German intelligence service) revealed that Verges himself was a member of Carlos's terror group.

Verges is confident about defending his new client. He says the French do not have sufficient solid proof against Carlos to convict him. He is advising his client not to talk.

"They [the French] want him to talk, but he won't," says Verges. "His position is: 'You brought me here, show what proof you have against me.'"

CARLOS WAS brought to France from Sudan, which succumbed to French pressure to give him up. Last August Sudanese police arrested Carlos and handed him over to French intelligence agents who flew him out a few hours later on a military jet to France.

Thus ended Carlos's freedom to kill, a passion matched by his deep hatred of Jews and espousal of the Palestinian cause.

Born in Venezuela, Carlos dropped out of university in Moscow to become a killer. In 1973, at the age of 24, Carlos started his career with the attempted murder in London of Edward Sieff, the president of Marks and Spencer and a staunch Zionist. Nine months later Carlos threw a grenade into a crowded Jewish-owned cafe in Paris, killing two and injuring 30.

By then Carlos had joined the PFLP, and soon became head of its terror cell based in Europe. In 1975, the group twice attempted to shoot bazooka rockets at El Al planes parked at Orly Airport. French intelligence agents went to Carlos's apartment to question him about the attacks.

In the middle of the questioning, Carlos excused himself for a moment. He got a pistol and shot and killed the two unarmed agents.

Six months later, Carlos gained worldwide attention when he masterminded the kidnapping of 11 OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna. The ministers were taken in a hijacked plane to Algiers



Verges (right), who has defended many linked with violence, is representing Carlos, the world's most notorious terrorist. (AP, AFP)

and held to ransom before being released. Carlos also assisted in the 1976 Entebbe hijacking of an Air France airliner.

Carlos's final terror spree took place in the early 1980s, in an effort to pressure France to release his then-girlfriend Magdalena Kaupp and an accomplice, who were caught in Paris in a car filled with explosives.

Carlos twice planted bombs on French trains, and set off a car bomb in front of the office of an Arabic newspaper in Paris. He is likely to stand trial for this last attack, which killed one and wounded 63.

Verges says the French gave in to Carlos by agreeing to try Kaupp on a lesser charge. Kaupp was sentenced to five years in prison, and was released after serving 18 months.

During this time, Syrian President Assad granted Carlos sanctuary. Carlos married Kaupp after her release; they had a daughter and lived in a villa, complete with lemon trees in the garden, outside Damascus.

In 1991, Syria asked Carlos to leave the country. He moved to Yemen, Jordan and finally to Sudan. There he enjoyed a close friendship with Sudan's president, Hassan Tourabi, who is considered a world leader of Islamic fundamentalists.

A French newspaper speculated that as late as last year Carlos aided Hizbullah in Lebanon.

A SHORT man with round glasses, Verges sits behind a big desk and speaks assuredly about the fate of his client. His large office, on the second floor of an old building in Paris, is filled with carved wooden figures.

The anteroom is taken up by a large wooden table. On it are 10 ornate chess sets. All the pieces are in position, ready to play.

When did you first become acquainted with Carlos?

I knew him when I defended his [future] wife Magdalena Kaupp in 1982. She wrote me from prison asking me to defend her and I agreed.

Who did Carlos work for exactly?

Carlos was a young student when he left his studies at the university in Moscow to join the PFLP.

It was at this time [1970] that Black September took place. He fought on the side of the PFLP. After that the PFLP sent him to Europe. He was part of the Organization of International Revolutionaries, in which the Palestinians were a majority.

What were Carlos's connections with Arab governments?

What were his relations with Assad like?

The connection he has with Arab countries he refuses to talk about. I can't tell you. His position is, if the French government has questions they should ask the Arab countries through diplomatic channels.

What were Carlos's connections with Islamic organizations?

I can't tell you because it is not part of the charges.... Now he has good relations with the Islamists because he was in Khartoum.

In Khartoum, was Carlos close to Sudanese leader Hassan Tourabi?

In Khartoum, he had relations with the authorities and with Tourabi. It was [Tourabi] who was responsible for his security.... I don't know what happened in Syria, but in Sudan he was under Sudanese protection.

Why did Sudan give him up?

Sudan is on the United States' list of terrorist states, and that of the European Community. In addition, Sudan is facing a revolt by the Christian population in the south. In this difficult situation, France established contacts with the Sudanese.

France agreed to aid the Sudanese government in attacking the rebels in the south. France offered them military and financial aid.

For several months France had pressured Sudan to give Carlos up. The Sudanese refused several times, but finally they gave in.

In a Moslem, Arab country, a guest is a sacred person. This is part of the culture. If someone breaks that rule, he must be in great trouble. And that's why [Tourabi] gave in to the French demand.

They did it because they needed the money?

Without a doubt.

This has been reported extensively in the press. Do you know anything about the French deal with Sudan other than what was written in the papers?

No.

What is Carlos's line of defense going to be?

He will say: "I was not brought to France as part of a judicial process. I was not extradited. I was kidnapped. This was illegal." We will take this point as far as the European Court of Human Rights.

The second argument is: "I have not come here voluntarily. I do not have to prove that I am innocent. That's not my problem...."

What if he decides to speak?

That's exactly what the French authorities hope he will do.

So he won't speak?

No, he will not.

Carlos has been sentenced in absentia to life in prison for killing the two French intelligence agents.

Now that judgment is null. He was tried in absentia, but now he is present, so the proceedings must begin again.

Today he is innocent.

If the government fails to convict Carlos on the Rue Marbeuf incident [the 1982 car bomb in Paris], might they open other files, such as the killing of the two agents?

The agents' case will eventually be brought [against Carlos]. But not before the French presidential elections [in May].

Why?

Bringing Carlos to France helped the government politically. But a trial is complicated. Carlos was with the PFLP, which could create problems with the PLO.... Former members of the PFLP are today in Arafat's entourage. That's the political problem. It would be a problem for the relations between France and the PLO.

Where does the case against Carlos stand at present?

I don't know. We're waiting for them to start a trial. When that will be, I don't know.

What is the chance of Carlos being released at the end of this whole process?

I am confident because I was the lawyer for [Anis] Nakash, charged in the attack against [former Iranian prime minister] Shapur Bakhtiar. Nakash was sentenced to life in prison and one day [Iran] negotiated his departure [from France].

With whom might France negotiate Carlos's departure?

It would depend on the situation. I don't know what the situation [of the Palestinian Authority] in the occupied territories might be like in a year's time.

Why did you decide to defend Carlos, aside from the professional challenge it poses?

I chose to defend Carlos and to make it known that persons with whom diplomatic accords are being signed were once fighters with Carlos.

One cannot today consider the PLO as an interlocutor and condemn someone who worked for the Palestinian cause in the past. One cannot decorate the general and condemn the soldier.

Is this the case after the Rabin-Arafat handshake?

It is true in general. But all the more so after the accord between Rabin and Arafat.

Only mammals can tell right from left

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

SOME questions about animal behavior are difficult to answer. Since we have little real knowledge about some areas, we must assume, extrapolate and draw conclusions with little absolute evidence.

A reader in Tel Aviv asks if "left- and right-handedness" applies to birds in the same way it does to dogs. Another reader wants to know if animals dream, and if so, what do they dream.

When we talk about left-handedness, left-footedness, left-pawedness or even, in the case of bulls, left-hornedness, we are dealing with mammals. It becomes apparent that mammals share characteristics. However, this is not the case with birds, fish or amphibians. The mammalian brain is unique, and its functions have little to do with what happens in the brains of other orders.

As for dreams, we know one thing: Dogs, cats and horses exhibit the same rapid eye movement (REM) that humans have when they dream. The difference is humans can relate to the dream after they wake; animals cannot.

We are amateurs when it comes to evaluating animals, but I'm sure future research will prove that animals do dream.

THERE AND THEN
SRAVA SHAPIRO

THE Liberal Party is dead, but Liberalism lives on.

This is the theme former Knesset member S. Zalman Abramov develops in a 500-page book that comprises most of his political writings of the past 50 years: *Al Miflaga Shene'elma Ve'al Liberalism* ("A Party that Failed - Its Idea Prevailed").

Liberalism is the core of political thinking among the middle class, Abramov contends. They honor property. They believe remuneration should correspond to one's ability to produce. They want a market economy. And they object to state interference in their lives.

These tenets were typical of the General Zionists, the first incarnation of the Liberal Party in Israel - small landowners, artisans, traders, members of free professions and manufacturers. They were all busy making a living and were little disposed to burrow into ideological niceties.

Few prominent writers emerged to help them in the matter and oblige them with comprehensive economic and political theories. Worse still, these potential Liberals lacked nationally respected leaders. Moshe Sneh, who could have become one, bolted shortly before the state's establishment, Abramov notes.

Abramov, then a 12-year-old, came to Tel Aviv in 1920 with his

family from Minsk, the capital of Belarus. After graduating from Herzliya secondary school, he studied law at Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio, at a time when most aspiring youngsters of his generation endeavored to study in Europe, preferably in Britain. America gave Abramov his conviction that human society is moved by the law of supply and demand.

FORTY YEARS ago Abramov published an essay to show that the social, economic and political climate of Israel did not appeal to Jews in the West. America in particular. "The founding fathers of Zionism envisaged a typically Western society, while we have created, so far, a welfare state in shape, a feudal [society] in its essence. He who urges immigrants to come from the West but overlooks the need to change values in Israeli society deludes himself."

He sent the article to David Ben-Gurion, then a recluse at Sde Boker, who did not agree. "This nation of ours," Ben-Gurion wrote back, "does not suffer from a scarcity of lawyers, soft-drink sellers or newspaper scribblers.... If Jews expect to be free in their independent land [and] not a minority living at the mercy of alien workers and farmers, they must change their socioeconomic structure."

Ben-Gurion said that if Abramov was right, and immigrants from the urbanized West would never become laborers, then he doubted the state of Israel could



S. Zalman Abramov: Liberalism is the core of political thinking among the middle class. (K. Weiss)

survive. He noted that only because a large number of immigrants from the West (and he included the whole of Europe) had made an effort to cast away the kind of occupations they had practiced in the Diaspora, did the State of Israel come into being.

Abramov was not persuaded. Men naturally veered toward the middle class, he contended, and he praised the Histadrut for assisting its members to become middle class. Kibbutz and moshav members will also, in due course, turn middle class, he believed. He produced statistics showing there was no surplus of lawyers in the country.

Ben-Gurion was not inclined to pursue the correspondence, and refused to allow Abramov to publish the letters. Abramov said he decided to make them public now because the Ben-Gurion Institute in Sde Boker publishes everything "the Old Man" ever wrote.

THE GENERAL Zionists, among whom Abramov had done his political apprenticeship, emerged rather late as a full-fledged political party. Jewish political associations in Palestine generally followed the divisions marking the Zionists in the Diaspora. The socialists and the reli-

gious were the first to band into distinctive groups. The General Zionists entered the political maelstrom in Palestine only after mass immigration from Eastern Europe changed the political map in the Yishuv. Soon after the establishment of the State, they were joined by Ihud Ezrachi - a loosely knit group of property-owners and manufacturers whose interest in politics was mainly to muzzle the left.

Other groups, with different political messages, also joined the General Zionists' bandwagon. Ha'oved Hatzioni was close to Mapai in everything except socialism. Aliya Hadasha was set up by immigrants from Germany who, according to Abramov, did not even aspire to a Jewish State.

The General Zionists' party was marked by a long list of mergers and splits - Progressives, Liberals and Independent Liberals are all groups which at one time or another joined or left the General Zionists.

Their heyday was in 1951, when the General Zionist Party sent 20 of their members to the Knesset. Three years later, premier Moshe Sharett took four General Zionists into his cabinet. But the success added little to the internal strength of the party.

Abramov notes that their Achilles' heel was the paucity of their ideology. "They did not succeed in creating an alternative to socialism." The General Zionists were ousted from the government when they abstained in a vote of no-confidence proposed by Herut.

New owner of LA's 'Messenger' applies unorthodox approach

The B'nai B'rith Messenger, the oldest Jewish newspaper in Los Angeles, has been acquired by Australian businessman Joe Bobker, now a prominent member of the local Orthodox community.

Bobker announced the takeover in his first issue with a radical redesign of the 98-year-old weekly. It featured a full-page cover photo of Pope John Paul II, a new, multi-colored logo and on the inside a profusion of arrows, boxes, oversized page numbers and sentences running every which way.

Responding to some readers' protests, Bobker said "I wanted to get attention, so the design had to be 'in your face,' [and] have shock value, and that's why I also put the pope on the first cover."

The B'nai B'rith Messenger has no connection with the international fraternal

organization. The paper evolved from a newsletter published by Congregation B'nai B'rith, the forerunner of the present-day Wilshire Boulevard Temple, a large Reform congregation.

Under the editorship for the past 12 years of Rabbi Yale Butler, whose father owned the paper, the Messenger's appeal was primarily to an Orthodox readership.

The religious outlook is shared by Bobker, and by the new co-publisher, Mendel Duchman, an ex-Habad rabbi in nearby Orange County. Duchman, now a businessman, holds a minority interest in the paper and is in charge of business, advertising and sales operations.

Bobker, who is listed as publisher and editor-in-chief, emphasized that the "new" Messenger will reflect his "goals, vision and attitudes." In a statement of

purpose, he promised to turn the paper into a true community publication, "with a touch of hutzpa, a dash of humor and seasoned with the flavor of Yiddishkeit."

In the Los Angeles area, the Messenger faces tough competition from two weeklies, the circulation-leading Jewish Journal and Heritage, as well as the monthly Jewish News.

The 48-year-old Bobker was born in a displaced persons' camp in postwar Germany, the son of Polish-born Holocaust survivors. "My parents were very Orthodox, who came out of the Holocaust [frumme] [more observant] than before," he said.

When the family, with nine-month-old

Joseph, immigrated to Australia, their ship arrived in Sydney on a Saturday. The kashrut-observant parents, who subsisted on potato peels during the six-week voyage, refused to move off the dock until the end of Shabbat.

Bobker graduated as an architect from the University of New South Wales, then moved to Israel to study in a yeshiva and work in his profession. He helped design, among other projects, mikvaot (ritual baths) for religious kibbutzim and the plaza in front of the Western Wall.

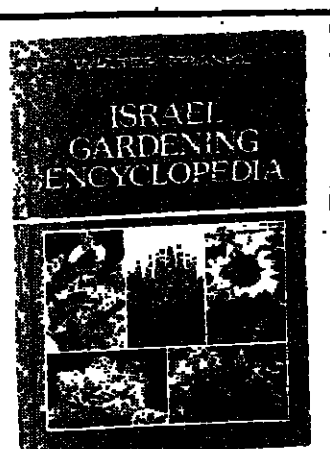
In the early 1970s, he returned to Australia, got married and became an "overnight success" in the Sydney real estate market. In 1980, he moved to Los Angeles, now his primary residence, and proved equally adept. In the late '80s, he branched out to Israel, building solely in haredi neighborhoods, and reports he

has done "extremely well."

"Since the Rabin-Arafat handshake, prices on my housing have unfortunately jumped 25 percent," he said, as they have across the country. Bobker makes it clear he would gladly forgo these profits if he could undo the handshake, which marked the official beginning of the PLO-Israel peace process.

Bobker is a self-styled workaholic, whose enterprises include real estate, construction, and kosher restaurants. He is writing a book on the Jewish holidays and another on the Holocaust from an Orthodox perspective.

He takes great pride in his Judaica and chess set collections. He explains the latter fascination with his father's injunction that he do only three things on Shabbat - "sleep, study or play chess, so I played chess."



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Louganis considered AIDS disclosure in '91



COMING OUT - Greg Louganis admitted his homosexuality and AIDS infection. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) - The day that basketball star Magic Johnson announced he tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS, Greg Louganis remembers hearing the news on the radio and thinking, "Maybe I should come out and join him."

That's because the Olympic diver had tested positive in early 1988, more than three years before Johnson's disclosure. Louganis decided instead to keep his status private.

Six months after the news about Johnson, tennis great Arthur Ashe announced that he had AIDS. Still, Louganis remained silent.

Now, the silence is over. Louganis has gone public with that fact that he has AIDS.

"That's what this is all about," he said. "No more secrets."

He had kept his terrible secret too long, through the 1988 Olympics and the frightening diving accident when he hit his head on the edge of the springboard, through his second double gold medal sweep, and through the years after.

When it came time to do his autobiography, the first question co-author Eric Marcus asked was about the accident in Seoul. At that point, Louganis took a deep breath and said, "Stop the tape. We've got to talk."

It was then that Louganis decided his book, *Breaking The Surface*, would address being gay and testing positive, first for HIV and now for AIDS.

"You don't realize how powerful secrets can be," Louganis said. "I dreaded speaking engagements. I had to always watch what I said. I couldn't tell the whole story."

"When you live with a secret, you worry all the time. You worry that the maid will find your medication or a house guest will look in the medicine cabinet. You think about a thousand things. It's an awful lot to carry around."

Some people suggest that Louganis should have spoken out before the 1988 Olympics, certainly in light of what happened in Seoul when his accident left him with a cut scalp and Dr. James Puffer, working without gloves, stitching the wound.

Louganis understands the criticism. "I was scared," he said, recalling the episode. "All I could do was sob."

After the Games, he still did not inform Puffer of his condition. "I probably should have told him of my HIV status then," Louganis said. "Hindsight is 20-20. But I was drained and dazed. You're not thinking properly. I made assumptions that were not accurate. I thought that Dr. Puffer would be tested routinely."

When he began writing the book, long after Seoul, Louganis called the doctor. Puffer, who has tested negative for the virus, expressed more concern for the diver than he did for himself. "He reassured me," Louganis said. "He was confident he'd be negative for the virus. It was a load off my mind when he was."

After the Olympics, Louganis did some acting, including a role of a chorus boy with AIDS in the off-Broadway show *Jeffrey*.

"I died every night in *Jeffrey*," he said. "I faced a lot of my own fears. The disease is indiscriminate. That's its nature. The message is hate AIDS, not life."

So, Louganis goes on with life, raising, training and showing his Great Danes. "Dogs are great. They give me their unconditional love," he said.

He looks and feels fine. He is tanned and relaxed, more relaxed, he said, than he can ever remember. "I have come to terms with this," he said. "I'm comfortable with where I'm at."

"With an HIV diagnosis, there's still plenty of living to do. You can still accomplish goals and make a difference."



AFTER TREATMENT - Louganis continued 1988 Olympic competition following doctor's care for head injury. (AP)

Magic, Ashe lead list of athletes who developed AIDS

NEW YORK (Reuters) - It was not until the revelation in November 1991 that basketball superstar Magic Johnson had contracted the virus that causes AIDS that the sports world was rocked by the disease that had already decimated other parts of the entertainment industry.

Johnson's NBA career was cut short when he learned he was HIV positive and announced his retirement from the Los Angeles Lakers.

The immensely popular Johnson returned to the game to play on the Olympic gold medal "Dream Team" in Barcelona in 1992. But an attempted comeback with the Lakers, who he had led to five NBA championships, was aborted over concerns by other players that they might be in peril in the physical game in which athletes regularly suffer numerous cuts and scratches.

Johnson, who remains active, often participating in charity basketball games and other celebrity events, is HIV positive but does not yet have full-blown AIDS.

The most famous athlete to fall victim to the disease was tennis great Arthur Ashe, the former Wimbledon and US Open champion who died from AIDS in February 1993 at 50 after receiving the virus during a blood transfusion.

But the disease has taken its toll on the sports world, claiming several athletes who did not have the worldwide recognition of Ashe or Johnson.

In October 1986, longtime Washington Redskins football player Jerry Smith died at the age of 43.

Former Olympic men's figure skating champion John Curry died last April from an AIDS-related heart attack at the age of 44.

The English skater won Olympic gold at Innsbruck and the world championship title in 1976.

A report in a Calgary newspaper in 1992 said some 40 male figure skaters and coaches in North America had died from AIDS, including three-time Canadian champion Brian Pockar.

American decathlete Thomas Waddell, who competed at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, died from AIDS-related complications in July, 1987 at 49.

Former lightweight boxing champion Esteban DeJesus died in May, 1989 from AIDS at the age of 37 and stock car racer Tim Richmond died three months later at 34.

Former baseball player, Alan Wiggins, a second baseman with San Diego and Baltimore, died in 1991 at 32.

Former Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Glenn Burke, who played in the 1977 World Series, is near death from AIDS at the age of 42. Burke, who is an admitted drug user that has served time in prison on a cocaine charge, has acknowledged his homosexuality.

The ice hockey world was openly touched by the disease for the first time this year when 50-year-old Bob Goldsworthy, one of the original Minnesota North Stars, went public with the news earlier this month that he was suffering from AIDS.

The veteran of 14 NHL seasons, who was told last November that he had the disease while in a hospital for viral pneumonia, blames unprotected sex after drinking binges for his contracting the AIDS virus.

Eyal Erlich stops Bloom in final

HEATHER CHAIT

ISRAEL'S No. 1 racket and top seed Gilad Bloom took a beating in the final of the \$25,000 Club Hotel Eilat satellite in Ashkelon yesterday, losing to 18-year-old Eyal Erlich 6-4, 6-1.

After the game, 28-year-old Bloom admitted to being tired from his tough matches earlier in the week.

For Erlich (304 in the world rankings against Bloom's 202), it was a different ballgame. After losing the first set in the first round of the competition, he did not drop another set on his way to the title, playing with initiative and aggression.

In Friday's semifinals, Bloom defeated Hungary's Victor Nagy (579) 6-2, 7-5. With the pressure of the week showing in his game, Bloom stayed back, dictating the game from the baseline.

Erlich, on the other hand, was in fine form against Italy's Daniele Bracciali (unranked), winning 6-4, 6-2. Erlich's powerful serves were excellently complemented by his accurate return shots.

The satellite now moves to Haifa where the main draw begins tomorrow.

Youth shines at national figure skating championships

HEATHER CHAIT

THE Israeli figure skating championships for children and youth took place at the Canada Center in Metulla over the weekend with 50 skaters from Bat-Yam, Ramat Gan and Haifa competing.

Na'ama Zilberman (Haifa) won the national girls' youth title (18 years) with Dennis Garbozov (Metulla) taking the boys' title.

Results Girls: 6-8 Viki Kabritski (Haifa), 8-10 Mor Biton (Metulla), 10-12 Ma'ayan Erlich (Haifa), 12-14 Inbar Ben-Yakar (Haifa).

Boys: 6-8 Adir Goldstein (Haifa), 8-10 Shari Shaker (Haifa), 10-12 Sergi Kotor (Haifa).

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

Rishon, Holon, Galil fight for third place

JOEL GORDIN

THERE'S a lot of life left in the National Basketball League.

Even though Maccabi Tel Aviv (21-2) has already clinched the top spot, the remaining three spots for the Final Four are still wide open as the teams go into the final stretch.

There are three vital games in this week's 24th round of play. Maccabi Rishon LeZion, one of three teams tied for third place (15-8), must face Maccabi Tel Aviv in the lion's den, at Yad Eliyahu. It will be the champions' first real test since they were ousted from the State Cup by Bnei Herzliya.

Already, tongues are wagging that coach Muli Kazurin has been given marching orders for next season and it will be interesting to see what effect the rumors have on him and the team.

Since Maccabi is five points ahead of its nearest rival with only three games left, the outcome matters only to Rishon. There, too,

rumors abound, that Gerald Paddio has been axed for next season and this could affect the big man's play. More's the pity - because Rishon's one hope of beating Maccabi and of gaining that valuable point is a superb display by Paddio and the other American, burly, bustling James Gully.

Hapoel Holon, also hugging third place, has a home game against Hapoel Eilat (13-10). The feisty, southern lads are never an easy team to beat but are inclined to be much weaker on the road than at home. Holon's Tomer Steinhauser and David Thirkill should be undisputed kings under the baskets while, outside the paint, Adi Gordon and Doron Shefa will be on the loose against a squad not noted for tight defense. If Holon can keep Ari Rosenberg and Joe Dawson at bay, coach Ralph Klein will be able to hang yet another

scalp from his belt.

In today's televised game, Hapoel Tel Aviv (in second with 16-7) takes on the third club logjammed in third place, Galil Elyon.

The northmen are riding the crest of a successful wave which culminated last week with a smashing 94-76 win over Rishon. Oded Katsch, Brad Leaf, Darryn Daye and Erez Hazan are currently red-hot. With the home-court advantage, Galil is going to be a cast-iron nut for even such heavy artillery as Buck Johnson and Milton Wagner to crack.

In the other games, Bnei Herzliya (14-9) has a relatively easy road game against Hapoel Givatayim (4-19). Hapoel Haifa (6-17) should give Maccabi Ramat Gan (9-14) a fight in the north while Maccabi Jerusalem (12-11) will find Hapoel Gvat (8-15) hot to handle in the partisan Yizre'el Valley. Hapoel Jerusalem (13-10) takes its turn to beat woeful and winless Betar Ramat Gan in the capital.

Wolves deal Rockets third straight defeat

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Tom Gugliotta scored 12 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as the Minnesota Timberwolves overcame the absence of Isaiah Rider to beat the Houston Rockets 108-105 Friday night and send the defending champions to their third straight loss.

Gugliotta added seven rebounds and six assists, and the Wolves placed six players in double figures in handling the Rockets their second Target Center loss of the season.

Hakeem Olajuwon had 28 points and Clyde Drexler added 23 for Houston.

Celtics 103, Bucks 91

Dino Radja scored 24 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and four other Celtics scored in double figures as host Boston broke a three-game losing streak.

Sherman Douglas scored a season-high 23 points and had nine assists, and Eric Montross added 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Todd Day's 23 points led the Bucks. Vin Baker scored 20 for Milwaukee and Glenn Robinson added 19 points.

Bullets 111, Pacers 106

Don MacLean scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as host Washington won for the third time in four games.

Juwan Howard added a team-high 20 points and Chris Webber 16 points and 12 rebounds for Washington, which won its second straight game for only the fourth time this season.

The Pacers dropped their second in a row after a seven-game winning streak.

Hawks 94, Pistons 78

Stacey Augmon scored 19 points and tied his career best by grabbing 12 rebounds as host Atlanta beat Detroit, who went scoreless for six minutes of the final period.

Andrew Lang finished with 18 points and eight rebounds, while Mookie Blaylock had 18 points and 10 assists as Atlanta pulled into fourth place in the Central Division, a half-game ahead of the Chicago Bulls.

Grant Long added 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Steve Smith 12 points for the Hawks, who have won four of their last five games.

Suns 122, Sonics 118 (OT)

Elliott Perry sent host Phoenix ahead with a pair of free throws in overtime, then assisted on AC Green's big 3-pointer with 1:02 left as the Suns outlasted Seattle in overtime.

The Sonics went cold in the extra period, making just one of their first six shots while the Suns went ahead 121-116 lead on Green's shot.

Charles Barkley had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Kevin Johnson had 25 points and 14 assists, and Dan Majerle and Wayman Tisdale scored 16 each for the Suns.

76ers 102, Nets 98

Dana Barros had 24 points and his 20-footer with 15.7 seconds left secured the Philadelphia 76ers' away victory.

Clarence Weatherspoon added 21 as he and Barros scored the 76ers' last 10 points.

The Sixers, who won their second straight, got 17 points from Jeff Grayer, 14 from Sharon Wright and 12 points and 15 rebounds from Shawn Bradley.

Spurs 112, Magic 111

Dennis Rodman's rebound shot with 3.7 seconds left sent host San Antonio to its seventh straight win. The Spurs have won 10 straight

home games, 16 of their last 18 and 31 of 38 since Rodman returned to the team on December 10.

In a matchup of two of the league's top centers, Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal had 36 points to David Robinson's 24.

Nuggets 100, Heat 98

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had 22 points and hit 20-footers with less than two seconds left to lift host Denver.

Glen Rice, who had 24 points, tied the game by hitting one of two free throws with 16.9 seconds left. Following a timeout, Abdul-Rauf hit the game-winning shot with 1.6 seconds to play.

Miami had a chance to tie, but Reggie Williams blocked Rice's shot as time expired.

Hornets 116, Warriors 86

Alonso Mourning had his way under the basket, scoring most of his 22 points on dunks and layups, as visiting Charlotte overwhelmed Golden State.

Dell Curry added 21 points and Hersey Hawkins had 17, most of them coming from the outside while the Warriors were preoccupied with Mourning. Curry drained four 3-pointers and Hawkins had three for the Hornets, who won their third straight on the road.

Lakers 109, Kings 104 (2 OT)

Vlade Divac tied a season high with 27 points and had 19 rebounds while Anthony Miller scored five of his career-high 18 points in the second overtime for host Los Angeles.

Miller also grabbed a career-best 15 rebounds to help the Lakers end a three-game losing streak. Nick Van Exel added 16 points and 11 assists.

Rookie Brian Grant scored a season-high 29 points and Mitch Richmond added 28 for the Kings, who blew a 15-point lead en route to their seventh straight loss. Bobby Hurley tied a season high with 14 points and had a career-high 17 assists.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS:

Boston 103, Milwaukee 91
Philadelphia 102, New Jersey 98
Washington 111, Indiana 106
Atlanta 94, Detroit 78

MINNESOTA 108, HOUSTON 105
Phoenix 122, Seattle 118 (OT)
San Antonio 112, Orlando 111
Denver 100, Miami 98

LA Lakers 109, Sacramento 104 (2OT)
Charlotte 116, Golden State 86

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:

Milwaukee 102, Atlanta 93
Orlando 107, Houston 96
Charlotte 109, Portland 99
New York 93, Chicago 89
Seattle 116, LA Clippers 88
Dallas 90, Cleveland 84

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	44	14	.759	-
New York	38	19	.667	5.5
Boston	28	33	.455	11.0
New Jersey	22	38	.370	16.0
Dallas	21	35	.375	17.0
Philadelphia	17	40	.298	20.5
Washington	15	41	.268	22.0

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Charlotte	37	21	.638	-
Indiana	34	22	.607	2.0
Cleveland	36	19	.658	3.0
Atlanta	28	28	.500	8.5
Chicago	28	30	.483	9.0
Milwaukee	22	36	.378	15.0
Detroit	21	35	.375	15.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	41	16	.714	-
San Antonio	38	19	.670	1.5
Houston	35	22	.613	4.0
Denver	25	31	.448	15.5
Dallas	22	32	.407	17.5
Minnesota	18	41	.303	25.0

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	44	14	.759	-
Seattle	38	17	.691	4.5
LA Lakers	35	20	.636	7.5
Portland	30	24	.556	12.0
Sacramento	28	27	.509	14.5
Golden State	18	29	.383	26.5
LA Clippers	11	47	.190	33.0

NFL BRIEFS

Meggett to Patriots

Dave Meggett, the versatile running back for the New York Giants, has agreed to terms on a five-year contract with the New England Patriots, rejoining coach Bill Parcells.

Meggett was the Giants' No. 2 rusher last year with 298 yards on 91 carries, scoring four touchdowns, and was third in receiving with 32 for 293 yards. He also averaged 12.2 yards per punt return last season, running two back for touchdowns.

In a six-year career, all with the Giants, Meggett has 10 receiving TDs, six on punt returns, five rushing, one on a kickoff return and has even thrown for three TDs.

Jets sign Brister

Bobby Brister, who played quarterback for two years under coach Rich Kotite with the Philadelphia Eagles, rejoined him by signing a two-year contract with the New York Jets Thursday.

Brister will back up starter Boomer Esiason, replacing Jack Trueman, who was claimed by Carolina in the expansion draft. In two seasons with the Eagles, Brister backed up Randall Cunningham. When Cunningham broke his leg during a game against the Jets in 1993, Brister rallied Philadelphia to victory. He threw for 1,905 yards in 10 games that season and the team was 4-4 in his eight starts.

Ex-Redskin to psychiatric center

A Houston judge agreed Friday to send former Washington Redskin Dexter Manley from the county jail to a psychiatric center for evaluation.

The hearing came after the former defensive end was arrested three times for drugs from November to February.

He went to two Super Bowls with Washington but was barred for life from the NFL in 1989 after failing a fourth drug test.

TODAY

figure skating from Britain 00:00 European

skating 1:00 Snooker 2:00 Eurosport news

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Basketball 18:00 National League soccer 19:00 Mondial 19:30 Goal and a half 20:00 The boxing 20:30 Basketball 22:00 Argentinean league soccer 22:30 Goal and a half 00:00 National League soccer 00:10 Volleyball

EUROSPORT

9:30 Tennis 11:30 Live women's alpine skiing 14:00 Women's speed skating 15:00 Alpine skiing 18:30 Live men's alpine skiing 20:30 Alpine skiing 21:00 Golf 22:00 Live IndyCar racing from Miami 00:00 LA marathon 1:00 ATP tennis

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Five Nations rugby: Ireland v France 7:00 Cricket: Australia v W. Indies 8:30 Live cricket: India v S. Africa 18:00 Sailing 19:00 Five Nations rugby: Scotland v Wales 17:00 International sport magazine 18:00 Chess 18:30 International sport magazine 19:30 Golf 20:30 College basketball 22:30 Golf 1:30 Tennis

MONDAY MARCH 6

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Bodies in motion 18:30 Goal and a half 17:00 Basketball 18:30 College basketball: Connecticut v Providence 19:30 Israeli basketball roundup 20:00 The boxing 20:30 Live National Basketball League: Hapoel Galil Elyon v Hapoel TA 22:15 Premier League soccer 23:15 Israeli basketball roundup

EUROSPORT

9:30 Golf 10:30 LA Marathon 11:30 Speed skating 12:30 Alpine skiing 14:00 Motor racing 15:00 Brazilian league soccer 17:30 LA Marathon 18:30 Formula 1 19:30 IndyCar 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Speed world 23:00 Eurosport 00:00 Live boxing 1:00 Eurogolf 2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Golf from Australia 8:00 World Cup cricket: India v S. Africa 9:00 European soccer: 18:00 Live World Cup cricket: W. Indies v England 17:00 Golf from USA 18:00 World of rugby basketball 21:00 Daytona 500 1:30 Golf

TUESDAY MARCH 7

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Bodies in motion 18:30 Israeli basketball roundup 17:30 National Basketball League: Hapoel Galil Elyon v Hapoel TA 17:40 Premier League soccer roundup 18:30 Live volleyball 20:30 College basketball: Connecticut v Miami 22:00 Brazilian soccer 23:00 (to be announced)

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Rise at the close Blue chips dip

WALL STREET REPORT

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks ended mostly higher Friday as a last-minute buying binge pushed the major indexes into positive territory for the first time all day.

The dollar was off its bottom late in the day, after setting historical lows for the second day in a row against the Japanese yen and the Deutsche mark.

Some stock analysts said the dollar's persistent weakness, even in the face of international central bank interventions on Thursday and again Friday, could force the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates to boost the flagging currency.

Stock analysts said higher interest rates could quash the hope for a "soft landing" in the economy, which had boosted equities to record highs last week.

Stock gains were also dampened by bonds, which were falling in response to the weakened dollar. The 30-year US Treasury bond was down nearly \$10 per \$1,000 face value.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 9.68 to 3,989.61.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by about 6 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 968 up, 1,170 down and 791 unchanged.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange came to 330.83 million shares, compared with 329.43 million in the previous session. The NYSE's composite index fell 0.07 to 263.29. Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 0.43 to 484.70. The Nasdaq composite index rose 4.37 to 798.05.

LONDON (Reuters) — UK blue chip stocks ended the session with extended losses, hurt by a weaker Wall Street and pressure on the dollar.

Traders said they believed the recent soft trend will continue next week. The FTSE 100 closed 13.1 points down at 3,025.1 in modest volume, a drop of 12.6 on the week.

FRANKFURT — German shares were steady at lower levels, still holding above the key 2,100 level in thin trading. The 30-share DAX closed down 9.17

points at 2,109.49. There was a small loss over the last week of 9.15. In post-bourse trade the index ended at 2,094.16, down 22.48.

PARIS — French shares were also pressured by the dollar's fall. The CAC-40 index was down 12.11, or 0.67%, at 1,795.24, a fall of 10.50 on the week.

ZURICH — Swiss shares fell more than one percent.

The Broad SPI was down 16.85 to close at 1,690.87, a fall of 21.08 points on the week.

\$ hits record low

CURRENCY REPORT

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hard times could be ahead for the dollar following a failed global effort to prop up the greenback, economists say.

The dollar sank to a record low Friday against the Japanese yen and a 2 1/2-year low against the German mark even though the Federal Reserve and other central banks spent an estimated \$2 billion to \$3 billion buying dollars.

On Friday, the dollar was 1.4250 marks, down from Thursday's late level of 1.4415.

The British pound was quoted at \$1.6222, up from \$1.5909.

Gold closed at \$377.00 per ounce, up from \$375.10. In Zurich, the late bid price was \$376.90, up from \$375.10. In Hong Kong, gold rose \$1.09 to close at a bid \$375.83.

Silver traded in London at \$4.43 a troy ounce, unchanged.

Dollar plunge shakes confidence in 'soft landing'

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market has ridden hopes for a soft landing to new highs in recent weeks. But the plunging dollar may dash that optimism.

The Fed is attempting a "soft landing," a slowing in the economy that is sufficient to head off inflation but not enough to bring on recession. Most economists agree that translates into an annual growth rate of a little more than 2% this year, compared with more than 4% in 1994.

The Fed's most recent attempt at a soft landing failed, ending in the recession that began in 1990.

There is disagreement on this point, but Victor Zarnowitz, director of the Center for International Business Cycle Research at Columbia University, said there have been four soft landings since

1948: one in the early 1950s, two in the 1960s and one in the mid-1980s.

But the dollar's weakness has complicated the Fed's challenge because it contributes to inflation by making imports more expensive. That means the central bank might be forced to raise rates more aggressively than it otherwise had envisioned. Higher rates tend to make the dollar worth more, but they also can trigger a recession.

Late last month, Alan Greenspan, the Fed's chairman, signaled that the Fed might just have pulled off the soft-landing. His comments sent the Dow Jones industrial average to close above 4,000 for the first time in history. This past week, the weakened dollar led economists to question whether Greenspan had spoken too soon.

Despite the long odds, "I think it's still a good bet," said David Blitzer, vice president and chief economist at Standard and Poor's Corp.

On Friday, the NYSE composite index fell 0.07 to 263.29, down 1.57 for the week. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index edged 0.29 higher at 484.72, but lost 2.69 for the week. The Nasdaq composite index rose 5.11 to 798.79, up 7.71 for the week. The American Stock Exchange's market value index added 0.43 to 453.49, up 2.82 for the week.

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Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.750	5.125	5.875
German mark (DM 200,000)	5.375	5.500	6.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.625	2.875	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.825	0.875

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Aloni hints Kessar guilty of wrongdoing as Histadrut chief

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni has hinted there may be good basis to allegations Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar committed financial wrongdoings when he served as Histadrut secretary-general.

According to the allegations, Kessar used Histadrut funds to finance his campaign in the 1992 Labor primary.

At Id al-Fitr celebrations Friday at her Citizens' Rights Movement offices in Taiba, Aloni said: "Yisrael Kessar knows how to buy the people in hamulot [Arab clans]."

Asked by Army Radio yesterday to explain the comment, Aloni said: "I meant exactly what needs to be understood. We know exactly what kind of elections and primaries there were in the Labor Party."

Aloni said that she need not say more, because "We know what people say."

She said she believes the police would now investigate everything that went on in the Histadrut recently.

A spokesman for Kessar responded to Aloni's comments by saying that "Yisrael Kessar has toiled for the working public for more than 30 years and he has always acted beyond reproach. He obtained his place in the Labor primary through legal means."

Last night, the Transport Ministry said in a statement that Kessar flatly rejected the allegations against him as a result of the police investigation of the Histadrut.

"I have never exploited my position in the Histadrut to advance

my political status. The great support I received in all of the elections in which I participated was given to me by the working public, from which I arose and for which I also work today," Kessar said.

Kessar said his "honesty and modesty are his identity card among the workers. I have never engaged in gossip or mudslinging, neither at the cabinet table nor outside the cabinet."

He said Aloni had apologized to him over the comment she made at Taiba, which suggested he had bought votes among the Arab sector. He said Aloni said she had meant that he had been very successful in the Arab sector and that she did not mean to say he had achieved this through improper means.

(Itm)



Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo poses with members of the newly formed Mayor's Council on Women (from left): MKs Limor Livnat and Yael Dayan, and Ilana Gur. The council is to advise Milo on women's matters and advance their interests. (Hanoach Grizinsky/Israel Sun)

Angry Beersheba residents disrupt Sarid speech defending location of dump site

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid on Friday defended his decision to establish a national garbage dump near Beersheba and close the Hirya dump near Tel Aviv, saying the decision was made for "substantive reasons" and not as an election gimmick.

While young demonstrators outside protested the turning of the Dudaim dump near the city into a national dump, Sarid told a meeting of the local chamber of commerce it was untrue the decision was made because there are more Meretz voters in the Tel Aviv region.

Yitzhak Boaron, a member of the municipal environmental committee, gave Sarid back the award for cleanliness he had received from him. "You gave me this certificate and now I'm returning it, until you change your decision regarding Dudaim," Boaron said.

Sarid's speech was cut off several times by protesters, who included the chairman of the Negev lobby in the Knesset, MK Shmuel Avital, and lobby member MK Yosef Vanunu.

AMIR ROZENBLIT

would block the city's development.

"I ask you to remove the Dudaim curse from Beersheba and move it from such close proximity to our homes," Kalai demanded.

Sarid said he would continue with the Dudaim project, because the Oron site would only be ready in another three or four years. "We can't wait until a plane crashes because of the birds that swarm over the Hirya site, and an investigative committee finds us responsible. When the Oron site opens, the burden on Dudaim will lessen," he said.

Spy Klingberg, 77, again seeks parole for health reasons

CONVICTED spy Marcus Klingberg, 77, has again asked to be released from prison because of his deteriorating health.

In a petition filed in Beersheba District Court on Friday, Klingberg asked the court to recommend to Police Minister Moshe Shahal that he be released after serving 12 years of his 20-year sentence.

After a five-hour hearing before three judges, the court decided to defer its decision to a later time.

AMIR ROZENBLIT

Klingberg disappeared in the early 1980s and it was revealed in 1983 that he had been convicted of spying for the former Soviet Union, while serving as deputy head of the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona.

The Russian-born epidemiology professor was charged with giving information about germ warfare to the Russians and is imprisoned at

Ashkelon Prison.

Last summer, Klingberg suffered a stroke and for the past four years, his lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, has been pressing for his release.

Last August a parole board rejected his appeal, saying he still represents a threat to state security.

Klingberg said in his appeal last year that he was "sick, tired, and headed for death. I ask that you let me spend my last few years with my family."

Woman named deputy head of Mossad

A WOMAN identified only as "A" has been appointed deputy head of the Mossad, and will be responsible for its operations branch, according to the weekly Tel Aviv. The appointment reportedly startled the intelligence community.

Another senior operative, D., who had been out of the service for four-and-a-half years, has been made deputy head in charge of administration, and was brought back at the request of the Mossad.

The two posts are becoming available because of the expected resignation of deputy Mossad chief

Ephraim Halevy, slated to become an ambassador to a European country in another year, when the current ambassador steps down. An agreement was reached on this between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Rabin had wanted to appoint Halevy ambassador to Jordan, but Peres's objection resulted in the appointment of Shimon Shamir to that post instead. Halevy was instead named ambassador to the EU until the other ambassadorial post becomes available.

(Itm)

Bamba yanked from US shelves

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

OSEM pulled some 15,000 bags of Bamba off US market shelves this week after the New York City Health Department said the popular children's snack might be tainted with salmonella.

At its US headquarters in New Jersey, company officials said Friday the connection between salmonella and Bamba "was definitely not conclusive."

Four cases of salmonella poisoning were diagnosed in New York among children who had eaten Bamba, the health department said in a statement.

It said the recall follows a warning about Bamba by the federal Food and Drug Administration, which the New York agency said was prompted by reports from the

United Kingdom about salmonella infection among children who had eaten Bamba.

The department, which monitors reports of contamination, had learned of 15 cases of salmonella poisoning since October 1. According to Osem, after a single bag of contaminated Bamba was found in Detroit, the department asked the 15 in New York if they had eaten the Israeli snacks. Four had, while 11 "had never heard of Bamba," the company said.

The four told the health department they had purchased the corn and peanut product in metropolitan New York and in Israel.

The voluntary recall began Monday and continued through the week.

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Brahms: Symphony no. 7

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Sun. 5.30 p.m. Haifa - Haifa

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Maxim Vengerov, violinist
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Andrew Litton, conductor
Sarah Chang, violinist
Elzbieta Szymanska, soprano

Programme:
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Mahler: Symphony no. 4

Concert no. 5
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Wed. 8.30 p.m. Haifa - Haifa

Concert no. 6
Wed. 8.30 p.m. Tel Aviv - Tel Aviv
Thur. 9.30 p.m. Haifa - Haifa

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Thursday, 9.30 Series C

CARL ST. CLAIR, Conductor
NAHUM SEIDEL, Soloist

Mozart "Serenata Notturna", K. 239
Bernstein "Hallel", for Flute and Orchestra
Beethoven Symphony No. 1

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Jerusalem ornaments to join Russian Torah scroll in Beijing

JUDY SIEGEL

TWO silver finials purchased in Jerusalem last week will decorate a 300-year-old Torah scroll, found by a California physician in a Moscow antique store and then donated to the Jewish community of Beijing.

The scroll was brought to the small Jewish community two years ago by Prof. Jordan Phillips, an American surgeon from Irving, California, who found the scroll while walking down a street in Moscow.

He bought it and sent the scroll to his rabbi who forwarded it to a

scribe who could not determine its place of origin but said it was in excellent condition and three centuries old.

Phillips and his wife Mary donated the scroll to the Jews of Beijing, whose services were being held without a Torah scroll.

The couple, in Jerusalem for a medical conference, will be making their 50th visit to China later this month, and will present the finials (rimmonim - decorative ornaments for the scroll's wooden spindles) to the community.

Arson suspected in hospital fire

THE fire department suspects arson caused a fire that broke out early Friday morning in the old wing of Sheba Hospital's emergency room.

Ramat Gan fire chief Aharon Godiner said that a stack of mattresses caught fire and the blaze quickly spread through 30 rooms used by the administration and sanitation departments at the Tel Hashomer hospital.

Last month, another fire broke out at the hospital in the orthopedic department. In that incident it was also a stack of mattresses that caught fire, and arson was suspected.

One fireman suffered injuries to his hand while putting out Friday's fire, while one worker suffered from smoke inhalation.

Severe damage was caused to the interior of the building, but the structure itself remained intact.

(Itm)

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